

## Hospital consultants plan work-to-rule

ut 750 consultants and senior medical staff could be involved from yesterday in working to rule in National Health Service hospitals in the north of England. The specialists are angry at Mrs Castle's statement on Friday that

Arthur Buckerby  
consultants in hospitals in the north of England are to begin to rule today in what is to be the start of a dispute between doctors and the Government over the time to phase out pay beds in the National Health Service.

Industrial action was planned on Friday by Mrs

Secretary of State for Services, that the Government would act this session to phase out the beds.

Consultants and other senior staff in hospitals throughout the country are clearly angry, as they see inaction as a pre-emptive discussions of the working party is examining the question of patients in health

hospitals.

The consultants in the

are starting their action yesterday, countrywide action began after a meeting of consultants' representatives in London on Wednesday.

Clifford Astley, chairman of the Central Committee of Medical Services, represents consultants in the British Medical Association, said they would be

disagreeing on Wednesday whether or not they should be introduced, as expected some form of

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"But we must bring  
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## HOME NEWS

## £600m investment in coal planned for the next 10 years

By Alan Hamilton

Labour Staff

The Government will today publish a report on the future of the coal industry, which commits it to a £600m investment programme over the next 10 years to increase the country's eventual coal-winning capacity to at least 150 million tons a year.

But the report, drawn up jointly by the Department of Energy, the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers, makes it clear that coal will have a future only as long as its price is competitive and that higher productivity and a miners' incentive payment scheme as a means of achieving it, are essential.

An outline of the proposals appeared in an interim report published in June, but the final conclusions will have a particular relevance in view of last week's decision by miners' leaders not to support the board's productivity scheme.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, has accepted the board's submission that massive new investment is needed to expand efficient existing pits and to open new ones, like the proposed new development at Selby, Yorkshire. But the Coal Board yesterday strongly denied reports that it had a list of 90 uneconomic pits to be closed if another big pay award this winter forced up the price of coal.

Under the investment programme the Coal Board will aim to maintain its present annual target of 120 million tons a year by 1985, but seek to increase annual output to 150 million tons. The plan also provides for an expansion of open-cast mining to 15 million tons.

The report also makes provision for substantially improved fringe benefits, particularly in pensions and compensation for pneumoconiosis.

Mr Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, addressing an NUM weekend school at Rhyl yesterday, said: "What the coal industry must do is produce every ton of coal it can get out of the ground at the lowest possible cost, so that it not merely secures its present position, and it is highly competitive now, but maintains an absolutely unchallengeable position as indigenous natural resources."

## 50% claim to be urged by militant engineers

By Our Labour Staff

The social contract is in danger of receiving another severe jolt, from leaders of more than a million engineering workers who meet in Eastbourne tomorrow to draw up a major new pay claim.

Militants on the powerful policy-making national committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineers, Workers and Engineering Service, will be pressing for an increase of 50 per cent in the industry's basic rates, to give a weekly minimum for skilled men of £50 for 35 hours.

Moderates on the 52-man committee, on the other hand, will seek to avoid tying the hands of Mr Hugh Scanlon and his union negotiators, and will move that the next engineering pay claim should be only for "substantial" increases, without naming any specific figure.

Whatever is decided by the engineers is likely to be adopted as policy by the entire Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The present national agreement in engineering runs out next April; there is no sign of any move at tomorrow's conference to have the date of a new deal brought forward.

Basic pay rates in engineering are, however, largely academic since most workers enjoy considerably greater take-home pay through local agreements on top of the national rates. The militant resolution which calls for a £50 skilled rate also seeks to ensure that employers will not be allowed to close their minds to continuing local pay deals.

Another resolution, although not naming a figure for the pay claim, wants the AUEW executive to be empowered to call national industrial action should the employers not reply with a satisfactory or quick offer.

By the time the present national agreement runs out in April minimum rates for a 40-hour week in the industry will be £32 for skilled workers, £25.50 for unskilled and £24.50 for women.

Some heated debate is also expected on the question of pay and conditions for the AUEW's own officers and staff. All 250 office staff at the union headquarters at Peckham, south London, have been on strike for the past week.

TUC and the contract, page 14



The Duchess of Gloucester leaving St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, yesterday, accompanied by her husband. Her son, Lord Ulster, who was born there prematurely on October 24, is to stay in hospital for a few more weeks. He is to be called Alexander Patrick Greger Richard. Greger is a Danish name.

## 'Loss of urban votes should worry Tory party'

Continued from page 1

successful solution needed all

three to work together.

He continued: "The Conservative Party should be deeply concerned in the manner in which it has lost its representation in the major cities of our country. In 1959 in major cities such as Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle the Conservatives actually held more seats than the Labour Party and enjoyed a higher proportion of the vote. In the last election in those five cities the Labour Party held 29 seats to the Conservative Party's six."

In the past millions of trade unionists had consistently voted Conservative because they considered correctly that their prosperity improved faster under the Conservatives and that in time of crisis the Conservatives were more competent to deal with the situation.

Part of the Conservatives' success was also due to the fact that the Labour Party became an inadequate and ineffective voice for the underprivileged, as they still were. Mr Walker argued that the

theme of increasing the choices available not just to the middle class but also to the wage earner was one which would play an increasingly important part in contemporary politics. It marked the dividing line between socialism and Conservatism, and he cited house ownership and education as examples of free

choice which the inflation of house prices.

He said that the Conservative Party must convince the country that it not only had as its objective the improvement of the quality of urban living but an economic policy that could provide the means of achieving the objective.

The core of Toryism lay in

the belief that a private enterprise system was the best means

for increasing the wealth of the nation and for using that wealth to improve the environment and finance social reform.

On housing, Mr Walker pro-

posed that the Conservative Party should go farther than it had so far done in selling off council houses to tenants.

I personally believe we should

consider transferring these houses

to the tenants on even more ad-

vantageous terms than we suggest at the last election. An analysis of the value of our stock of council houses would show that the smallest proportion of the value was the original cost of those houses and by far the largest proportion of the value is the depreciation in value created by the inflation of house prices.

I see no reason why the bulk of this value should not be transferred to those who inhabit these homes. It would be a major redistribution of wealth with little detriment to the fortunes of others. It would enfranchise the one third of our population from the ownership of property, give them an independence and freedom that they had not previously enjoyed.

On full employment as a first priority, Mr Walker said: "We must remove any suggestion or stigma that as a party we would become complacent upon the question of unemployment. Those economists who do not advocate a minimum wage, that would create a substantially increased degree of unemployment can have no comprehension of the impact upon the human being of an inability to obtain employment.

There are no economic advantages in unemployment. It can be argued and illustrated that most of the

## Farmers to use 'flying squads' for port protest

"Flying squads" of militant farmers were prepared to do to any port where Irish meat was being unloaded, it was claimed yesterday. Mr Rob Wright, Midland spokesman for the National Farmers' Union, said the farmers in his area had set up the squads in response to appeals from their colleagues.

Mr Wright said that at least 300 farmers from Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire intended to come on Barry, South Wales, tomorrow to join Welsh farmers in a dockside demonstration. Farmers from Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Derbyshire were going to Birkenhead for a series of demonstrations.

At Holyhead, North Wales, about 500 policemen were expected yesterday to be on hand for another demonstration when a cattle ship from Ireland tries to dock.

Farmers of west Wales had off their blockade of Fishguard harbour on Saturday. For 10 days they had stopped movements of frozen beef from land being taken out of the lorries.

They agreed to withdraw Fishguard for three weeks to give the Government an opportunity to help them, Mr Keith Davis, one of the leaders, said: "We have to back again if we have to back again I am afraid I will be employed."

Four North Wales MPs night urged farmers in their area to follow the example at Fishguard by calling direct action.

The

MPs

Mr Cle Hughes (Labour, Anglesey), Mr Dafydd Elis Thomas (Conwy, Merioneth), Mr D. Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Ceredigion) and Mr Wyn Rees (Conservative, Conway) told the Government to restore a 50-day waiting period required for imported cattle to qualify for the British premium.

They also want the live livestock exports from Britain to be lifted and a beef price giving the market a "flow".

Plaid Cymru yesterday fought for restoration of the fat guarantee scheme and a fat subsidy to help farmers, particularly hill farmers, through the winter.

## ABTA steps in to save holidays for 1

Holidays for 180,000 booked through the travel agency Kentways of Bourne will begin today as planned.

A spokesman for the Leisure Group, which a ago bought a £65,000 interest in Kentways, said: "Those who have already experienced the blockade of their cattle at Larne and Belfast

This was decided last night after a day-long meeting between representatives of the unofficial strike committee and private hauliers, many of whom are now faced with the prospect of liquidation.

A spokesman for the 50 private haulage firms said that after already over £500,000 worth of food had become unfit for human consumption, and the total was likely to rise rapidly if no agreements could be reached.

If today's mass meeting votes in favour, the private hauliers will be able to move their refrigerated lorries out of the docks, but it will not end the end of a strike which is gradually growing more bitter. Already one picket member has died after being struck by a lorry at Larne docks.

Economic situation: A reminder of the severe economic consequences which would result from any unilateral declaration of independence by Ulster was given at a weekend conference at the new University of Coleraine about the implications of the various possible solutions for the province's political future.

Professor Thomas Wilson, an economist from Glasgow University, maintained that if British financial aid was withdrawn, personal taxes would have to increase by more than half, or public spending, including social security, would have to be cut by more than a third.

Families evacuated

Several families evacuated

from the Mossley Estate

Bloxwich, Walsall, Shropshire, yesterday, after a

explosions, said to have

caused by gas, damaged

house there.

## Letter shows IRA jail rioters aimed to wreck internment

From Christopher Walker

Belfast:

Remarkable first-hand evidence of the way that leading members of the Provisional IRA regard the results of recent rioting, which caused damage of over £1.5m to Ulster prisons, is contained in a letter intercepted by a warder at Crumlin Road jail at the weekend.

The army believes that the hand-written letter is conclusive proof that the disturbances, the worst in British prisons, were part of a coordinated plan by the Provisionals to try to make detention without trial unworkable.

A prisoner on transfer to the letter out of the Maze prison on Saturday, and was in the process of pushing it under the door of the cell belonging to Brendan Hughes, a former chief of the Provisionals' Belfast brigade, when he was seen by a warder.

The army believes that the text of the letter, said to have been written by Dave Morley, commander of the Provisionals' fourth battalion, was released by Stormont Castle last night. The fourth is the newest Provisional battalion and consists entirely of men held inside the Maze (formerly Long Kesh).

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## Rhodesia vote likely to test Tory leadership

By Our Political Editor

First signs of internal differences within the Conservative Party over questions of leadership and policy will be seen on Friday when the Government will bring forward the annual Order to renew the sanctions against Rhodesia introduced by Mr Wilson and the Labour Government in 1965.

Several times groups of backbench Conservative MPs have voted against sanctions, and the removal of Sir Alec Douglas-Home's calming influence is likely to provide the occasion for a larger demonstration this year. Some Conservative right-wingers are expected to take the opportunity to show their dissatisfaction with Mr Heath's leadership and the direction of policy by mounting a strong

opposition to the Order.

"We have got to have an idea of what makes the economy of our nation tick before we can oppose the damaging proposals of the Government."

Mr Heath and the Shadow Cabinet, who continue to stand by Sir Alec's original five principles for a Rhodesian settlement, have been fortified by a 1973 party conference majority rejecting a motion to drop sanctions. But it is not forgotten that Sir Alec then said that "mandatory sanctions should never have been put on" and the day might come when that might have to go to the United Nations because the whole policy had failed".

In a letter to Sir Michael Swann, chairman of the BBC, he says his association received no complaint about the corporation's election coverage, and assured him of full support in his "efforts to maintain the political independence of the BBC".

A Lockheed Aircraft Corporation spokesman confirmed in London yesterday that Delta Airlines (of the United States) has ordered three more Rolls-Royce powered TriStar aircraft for delivery in 1976. The order is subject to successful completion of Lockheed's financial arrangements.



Forecast for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, central England, Channel Islands, Mainland, SW, fresh, becoming strong, sea moderate.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea, NW, fresh, becoming strong, sea moderate, becoming variable, light; max temp 9°C (50°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Scotland: Rather cloudy, showers or longer periods of rain, becoming drier with clear spells; wind N, fresh, perhaps strong, becoming variable, light; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Wales, Midlands, SW, England: Wind N, fresh, perhaps strong, becoming variable, light; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Scotland: Wind N, fresh, perhaps strong, becoming variable, light; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Rather cloudy, perhaps rain, but there may be rain at times in W.

Yesterday:

London: Temp: max 6°C (43°F), min 5°C (41°F), Wind 6-7, 9-10°C (45-54°F), Humid, 67-68 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1-2 Bar

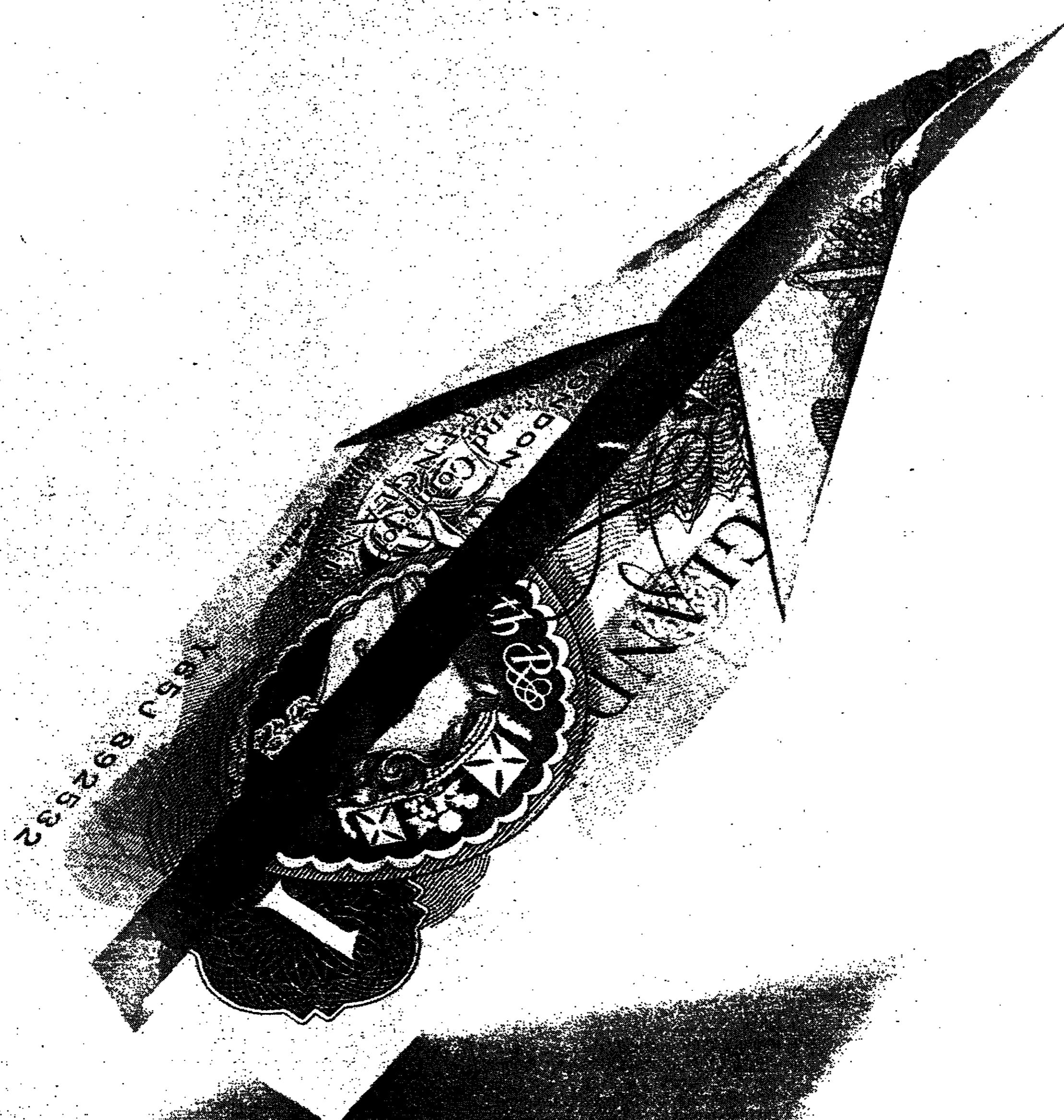
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## HOME NEWS

## Constitutional clash with Lords could delay referendum on EEC membership by six months

By David Wood

Political Editor

Behind the scenes during the House of Lords debate on the Queen's Speech both Labour and Conservative peers have been discussing the possibility of a constitutional clash with the Commons when the Government brings in legislation next summer to authorize a referendum on United Kingdom membership of the EEC.

There was an overwhelming majority in the proportion of eight votes to one in the Lords for the United Kingdom's membership, and there is no reason to think the balance of judgment has essentially changed. But peers who would want to prevent withdrawal from the EEC could well be reinforced by peers from both sides who believe the Government's resort to a referendum constitutes a fundamental constitutional change that diminishes the sovereignty of Parliament.

Some of the peers' private discussion hinges on a challenging statement made in the debate by Lord George-Brown: "I utter this warning to ministers in this House for conveyance to ministers elsewhere over the referendum: a referendum which, as the Prime Minister said once when I was deputy Prime Minister, would be held only over his dead body. He ought to be careful,

because it might turn out that he was being unnecessarily prophetic.

Lord George-Brown had in mind that the holding of a referendum would necessitate a Bill of two or three clauses both to prescribe the questions that would be put to the electorate and to authorize expenditure.

It would have to be carried through both Houses to reach Royal Assent. There is no reason to doubt that the Government could carry a referendum Bill in the Commons, since even Europeanists like Mr Roy Jenkins and Mrs Williams have accepted the principle.

But it were rejected by the overwhelming majority of constitutionalists and Europeanists in the Lords, the veto would delay the referendum for about six months. That would breach the Government's commitment, both in its election manifesto and in the Queen's Speech, to give the British people within 12 months "the opportunity to decide whether, in the light of the outcome of the negotiations [with the EEC], this country should retain its membership".

There are some anti-Europeans on the Labour side in both Houses who hold that it would be preposterous to oppose United Kingdom membership on grounds of the loss of parliamentary sovereignty, as they do, and then resort to a referendum.

## Churchman gives back sculpture of Maria

By a Staff Reporter

A church minister yesterday received the award of a statue of Maria Colwell, the girl beaten to death by her stepfather last year, for his work in preventing child cruelty, and then promptly returned it, saying that it was "in a sense, an obscene award".

At a meeting in Trafalgar Square organized by the Maria Colwell Memorial Fund the Rev Ian Lambert, minister of Cuffley Free Church, Hertfordshire, was presented with the life-size sculpture for his work in a case where he took two young children into his home after they had been neglected and left to fend for themselves by their mother.

But he said that the "macabre statue" was something which he hoped would never need to be offered to anyone again. "I do not want to keep something which is a memorial of despair." He believed it was almost an obscenity that such a trophy should be awarded for something that "all of us ought to be doing by right".

Mr Lambert was clearly unhappy about the meeting, which he believed could do harm as well as good. "Around this particular event there has been a tremendous public, some of it very nasty, fury." He said many people had urged him to decline the award, but he accepted it briefly, because he believed in the sincerity of the people presenting it.

Mr Lambert added: "One thing that troubles me very deeply about a campaign of this nature is what the media can do with it." He suggested that they could so twist the facts of a case that it could be distorted out of all recognition.

In the case in which he had been involved, he said the press virtually crucified the children and him. He said that one national newspaper had published details given in confidence. As a result the children had been put in a children's home and not in a family situation, as had been hoped.



Mr. Jack Ashley, MP, addressing the Maria Colwell meeting yesterday. Behind her memorial sculpture is Mr. Robert Cooper, the dead girl's foster-father, with Mrs. Cooper in the foreground.

The statue is a sculpture in steel by David Whipp, showing Maria Colwell holding the lid of a bin full of rubbish. Mr. Robert Beaumont, secretary of the memorial fund, described the child as "this little disturbed girl". Mr. Beaumont said the fund's aim was to end cruelty

## Mensa tries to dispel its 'egghead' image

By a Staff Reporter

Mensa, the organization for people with IQs of more than 148, is trying hard to change its image. It is weary of being seen as a group of ivory-towered élite eggheads, out of touch with reality and spouting jargon.

"I would like to see this image dispelled," Mr. Willi Middleton, chairman of British Mensa, said yesterday in London at the annual conference of the society. "We are ordinary human beings and our organization cuts across all social strata."

Mr. Middleton is an excellent example of the new approach. He has no academic qualifications and is a serving RAF policeman. He has a Yorkshire accent and manner does not use big words.

Mensa is worried by the slow rise in its membership, which is now about 3,000. It is felt that potential members may be intimidated by the society's reputation.

In an attempt to make people

realize that its members are their feet very much on the ground, a "brainstorming competition" has been held. Small groups were asked to solve contemporary, however silly, with the object of deriving from discussion a real solution.

The winning brainstorm, response to the proposal "Think of a system to get best buy", was to establish marketplace kiosks at each shopping hours, (a) to which shippers report prices quality and (b) which display the best buys as they show during the day.

Mr. Michael Bradley, organizer of the competition, showed how Mensa members could apply their high intellects in a useful way. The winning scheme was simple, could be applied immediately and would not cost much and immediately useful.

## £2 fee to join Sir Walter's civil assistance group

By a Staff Reporter

Supporters of General Sir Walter Walker's Civil Assistance organization are being invited to become members for an annual fee of £2. Their names and addresses will be kept secret, if requested, and they will be kept in contact through a network of local controllers.

General Walker disclosed his latest plans on Saturday. He said he had appointed 40 county controllers, who would in turn appoint organizers in towns and villages. Unlike the rank-and-file membership, they would be required to publicize their names, addresses and telephone numbers.

"I will not have anyone who is not prepared to stand up and be counted," he said. "It is a question of moral courage." The idea of a membership subscription follows a letter dated October 1 which was to about 5,000 people who wrote to express their support.

"Our system, in order to serve maximum security, is letters from every county sorted and collated and passed by courier to the controller of the county appointed," the letter said.

The up-to-date situation is that by the end of this month we shall have sent thousands of letters and phone calls of support.

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# "Does ITT give a damn about Britain's balance of payments?"

Facts can sometimes be uncomfortable. Especially when they shatter a popular myth. In ITT's case, the myth is that, as a multinational company, its only interest in Britain is how much money it can get out of it.

And the facts?

Last year, ITT companies in Britain paid over £12 million in Corporation Tax and more than £73 million in wages and salaries. They invested £8.6 million in new production facilities and £9.5 million in research and development.

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Standard Telephones and Cables, and Standard Telecommunication Laboratories.



## HOME NEWS

# Students' union faces 'disaster' unless subscriptions go up

By Tim Devlin  
Education Correspondent

The National Union of Students is in severe financial trouble and will have to reduce its militant activities if it is to increase its annual income of £300,000. Inflation, increased membership, particularly among the poorer colleges, and growing militancy are the main causes of the trouble.

The union's executive has called for big increases in the subscriptions paid by its 750 affiliated college unions. It wants to double by 1976 the £255,000 raised annually in subscriptions. The motion will be debated at a conference in March at the end of this month.

Mr Charles Clarke, national treasurer of the NUS, which has 650,000 members, has warned the college unions not to expect any significant increase would be to cause major redundancy of union staff and cuts in union services.

But Mr Francis Beckett, the union's press officer, differed yesterday when he said: "We are not facing bankruptcy or redundancies. The position is that our membership has doubled in the past five years.

The college unions pay a small proportion—not more than 57p a member—of that to the central branch. The NUS would like to see the percentage fixed at between 5 and 9 per cent of the total.

**NUT warning on central control of education**

Mr Edward Britton, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday that the economic crisis could not be used as an excuse for weakening the control of local authorities over education.

He called on Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to state categorically that that would not happen as a result of current negotiations on the rate support grant. Mr Prentice is to address the local education authorities' conference at Birmingham this week.

Mr Britton, in an interview with the Press Association, said: "I think the real danger of the present situation is that the very real difficulties of the local authorities over finance will be made an excuse by central government to take over more power in education, and I am afraid that the local authorities are in such financial straits they will not put up any resistance."

The authorities have asked for an increase of £1,500m in

## Maritime museum proposal a step nearer reality

The long-cherished hopes for the establishment in Liverpool of a maritime museum of world-wide importance have moved another step forward.

The Arts and Culture Committee of the new Merseyside County Council, which appears to be one of the most enthusiastic and imaginative bodies created out of local government reorganization, is to be asked this month to prepare a scheme for a "maritime park" in the now disused Canning Dock system, just south of Liverpool's Pier Head.

The news should warm the hearts of the many preservationists who believe that such a project, combined with others to put the disused south docks system to good use, could turn that sad looking corner of a great city into an international tourist attraction. It is just the sort of boost to the local economy which Merseyside so badly needs.

At a meeting of the specially formed Maritime Museum Committee last week, Sir Stanley Hicks, the county council's chief executive, admitted that from the financial point of view it was "probably the worst possible time to embark on what will obviously be a multi-million pounds venture". However, he thought that if the local authorities made a start, money would come in from other sources to back up what he described as a project of "tremendous excitement".

The county has inherited from the old Liverpool City Council a site for an enclosed museum near the Pier Head buildings but the aim now is for a far more imaginative project incorporating the display of full-sized historic ships when they can be acquired.

Mr Geoffrey Lewis, the Merseyside county director of museums, has his eye on a nineteenth-century, barque named *Elissa*, which was built in Aberdeen for a Liverpool firm and is lying in Greek waters but could probably be

and our capacity to serve our members has not kept pace with the large yearly increases in membership."

The union's north London headquarters has a staff of 200, of whom 140 run the insurance and travel branches, Mr Beckett said: "If we do not get the increase we are going for, we shall have to look very carefully at all the services we provide."

To some extent the increased militancy among students had added to the cost of running the union because of meeting the demands made at conferences. Mr Beckett said: "He added that, although the union has reserves, failure to increase subscriptions would be a long-term disaster."

Students pay their subscriptions to the college unions on a sliding scale that ranges from about 15p a year to £20 according to course and college. Most full-time university and polytechnic students pay between £12 and £20.

The college unions pay a small proportion—not more than 57p a member—of that to the central branch. The NUS would like to see the percentage fixed at between 5 and 9 per cent of the total.

**Regional report**

### John Chartres

Liverpool

restored and brought "home" for about £150,000.

The Canning docks system already bristles with fine examples of nineteenth-century dockside equipment and in one corner stands the Albert Docks Office, with a Tuscan portico in solid cast iron, designed by Philip Hardcastle, of Euston Arch fame. That building, it is envisaged, could be used as "an interpretive centre" for visitors.

The Albert Docks system, a memory to Jessie Hartley, the great Victorian engineer, is scheduled to be the new home of Liverpool Polytechnic.

A report presented by Mr Lewis to the Museum Committee says: "The south dock area remains the middle, nineeenth-century heart of the Port of Liverpool's heyday. Such a setting for a maritime museum associated with a great port would be difficult to find elsewhere in Britain."

At present only about a tenth of the historical maritime material owned by the council can be displayed in existing museums, although the total collection is rated as the third largest in Britain and dates back to 1884. It includes more than 1,000 models of steam and sailing ships, ranging in date from the late seventeenth-century to the present day. Among them is a group of British fishing and coastal craft of the late nineteenth century.

There are 500 marine paintings and prints, voluminous archives and one full size ship, a Morecambe "Nobby" fishing boat.

## Police chief loses fight against extradition

Peter Godber, aged 52, the former Hongkong police chief, failed on Saturday in his fight against the application by the Hongkong Government to have him extradited to the colony, where he faces bribery charges.

As the chief metropolitan magistrate, Sir Frank Milton, announced his decision to grant the application, Mr Godber collapsed in the dock. Court officials and his son, Mr Ian Godber, were at the side.

Giving his judgment, the magistrate said: "I am going to make an order that you will be detained pending the decision of the Secretary of State. You will not be surrendered until after the expiry of 15 days and you have the right to apply for a writ of habeas corpus."

After the hearing Mr Anthony Scrivener, defence counsel, said that he would be appealing to

## Appointments Vacant

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## EST-EUROPE

## Power workers and railwaymen joining French strike wave

Richard Wigg

Nov 3  
French Government faces a week on the labour front, people stopping work in different walks of life.

It reacts well whether or not it has a social role on its this winter.

Powermen's strike, which started as a catalyst for the unrest, is entering its week with no sign of the or the Government making concessions. This is now the st time France has been lately without letters for 20 years.

Other groups of state employees will join the post-railwaymen are due 48-hour stoppages round country from Tuesday, and electricity board

ers will strike on Tuesday, in warning power cuts in morning. Miners in the Lorraine coalfields came out last and hospital staffs are due in a fortnight's time.

New groups striking to will be some 15,000 fuel

ants, who object to the chore imposed on them by government's fuel rationing

and, and veterinary surgeon, who are incensed because Government has quietlyed their assistants the right to form many services to sick

another dispute employees

gravure, the country's big printing concern, have occur

the works at Lille and the

plants in the Paris area

"indefinite strike". Neo

prints *Paris-Match* as such essentials as

## Communist party leader in Sweden resigns

Our Correspondent

Stockholm, Nov 3

C. H. Hermansson, leader of the Swedish Communists for 11 years, has announced that he intends to go. The weekend announcement came amid a serious logical rift in the party, which is in a loose parliamentary coalition with the ruling Democrats.

minority believes that the party has drifted too far away from Moscow. Under Mr Hermansson, Swedish communists assumed a highly independent and nationalistic stance.

Mr Hermansson said his

son had nothing to do with the present struggle.

## Winter comes early in Swiss mountains

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, Nov 3

With from 2ft to 4ft of snow at 4,500ft level, skiing has been in full swing this weekend in the Alps and Jura. This is a result of what is described as the coldest October on record.

The records go back two centuries.

Even in what would normally be regarded as an early winter the snow cover would not have attained its present depth for at least another month.

If members of the skiing industry are rubbing their hands in delight, the mountain peasants are wringing theirs. At St Cergue in the Jura, for example, it snowed every day except two in the month from

## Inflation as main topic at EEC summit

The Hague, Nov 3—Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and other European Community socialist leaders agreed yesterday that inflation and the consequent risks of recession and unemployment should dominate the forthcoming EEC summit in Paris.

"We are convinced that it will be necessary to use the next few weeks to prepare more measures which could be ranged against this very serious situation", Mr Joop den Uyl, the Dutch Prime Minister, said.

He was speaking after the first summit meeting of EEC socialist leaders at which one of the major issues was seeking a common approach to the Paris summit.

Mr Den Uyl said the socialist leaders had agreed that the summit should deal with these current problems: The high rate of inflation following the increase in oil and other raw material prices and the consequent threat of recession and unemployment; the need for a common EEC energy policy and a dialogue between the principal oil producers and consumers; and improvement of the Community's decision-making machinery.

Mr Den Uyl predicted that the summit would not be held until mid-December, which gave more time for preparations.

He said no decision had been taken to associate Mr Wilson with further contacts between socialist leaders before the Paris meeting. He expected Mr Wilson would be included in informal pre-summit consultations among socialist leaders.

Reuter



An idyllic scene as teddy bears assemble for a picnic in a West German wildlife park. Unfortunately cars get badly scratched and some animals are poisoned by exhaust fumes.

## Test for Britain in bridge championships

From a Bridge Correspondent

Tel Aviv, Nov 3

Last minute complications forced Greece to withdraw from the open series of the European bridge championships which started here today.

Britain had a searching test

in the first round when they met Italy, the defending champions, still formidable, even without their world championship stars. At the half-way stage

Italy led by 42 points to 19 after a lively game with errors on both sides. Italy continued to have the better of things and eventually won 19-1.

Farmers in the plains have collected gifts of hay for the mountain communities. The Government is now considering what form its assistance must take, in particular for small family farms which, even with subsidies, seldom do better than make ends meet.

The main reason, he said, was that repeated and urgent requests for doctors, health workers and sanitary inspectors to keep a check on schools, shops, restaurants and markets, to combat pollution and perform vaccinations, had all gone unanswered.

He emphasized "in emergency terms" the "extremely grave inability of the health service to keep up with... The expla-

## Alarm over unclean state of Rome

From Patricia Clough

Rome, Nov 3

There is growing concern for the health of the eight million pilgrims expected here during the coming Holy Year, because of the unclean state of Rome.

The alarm has been raised by the city health officer, Professor Tommaso Martelli. In a letter to the Mayor, the Health Ministry and other authorities, he said that it was now completely impossible to carry out his duties and he refused any responsibility for the consequences.

The main reason, he said, was that repeated and urgent requests for doctors, health workers and sanitary inspectors to keep a check on schools, shops, restaurants and markets, to combat pollution and perform vaccinations, had all gone unanswered.

He emphasized "in emergency terms" the "extremely grave inability of the health service to keep up with... The expla-

sion of serious pollution problems and the spread of infectious oral-faecal diseases to the extent that in the near future if the technical staff is not adequately increased this office will not be able to deal with even the most urgent situations".

The problem, he added, would become even more disastrous in two months' time when Holy Year begins and, among other problems, hundreds of new or improvised hotels and hostels open for the occasion.

The first reaction came from a local magistrate, who opened a judicial investigation into the city's sanitary deficiencies.

Behind the bureaucratic language of Dr Martelli's letter are conditions which the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* has likened to "a Middle Eastern capital during a prolonged dustmen's strike". Typhoid and viral hepatitis cases occur with a frequency which in any other European country would be

considered an epidemic", it said.

More than 100,000 children go to schools without any medical services and between 60,000 and 70,000 of these children, according to the city health office itself, suffer from intestinal parasites.

The sewage system is totally inadequate and a shower of rain brings stinking sewage bubbling up out of the drains into the streets and people's cellars.

Many municipal health centres are closed or desperately understaffed, others cannot even perform simple vaccinations for lack of basic equipment such as syringes and serum.

Meanwhile the city council is running a "cleanliness campaign". As far as the average inhabitant can see, this consists only of hundreds of posters showing a flower springing up from some (clean) cobblestones and the words "The cleanliness of Rome depends on you too".

## Italians troubled by foreboding of violence

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Nov 3

The exact hour of arrival in Rome tomorrow of Dr Henry Kissinger and his detailed arrangements have yet to be revealed.

In a sense they are irrelevant unless to some unbalanced would-be assassin, because the effect of the visit can already be felt. There is a good deal of fear that anti-American incidents will be serious.

Thousands of police are being brought into the capital to protect the guest and drivers today on the motorways were warily overtaking columns of police lorries blanketed by motorcyclists. Tickets are already advertised for "five hours of music against Kissinger" in Piazza Navona on Tuesday night, coinciding with a demonstration organized by the Communists in favour of an "Italy safe in its independence".

The Communists are busily explaining that they feel the country's present leaders will not tell the American Secretary of State of the importance Italians attach to independence and so they must be the ones to drive the point home.

It is difficult to talk of the country's leaders given that there has been no fully functioning government for a month and Signor Aldo Moro's efforts at putting together a new coalition will be interrupted tomorrow for what is called "the Kissinger parenthesis".

The visit will be taking place in an atmosphere which a prominent Socialist described as "dangerous on the grounds that a spark could cause a fire".

Plenty of people are making clear their fears that the five might break out as a result of violence in the course of the next two days. Both the Communists and the Socialists have issued warnings about the dangers of provocation which they naturally see as favouring the extreme right.

Certainly there is plenty of space for manoeuvre. Tomorrow happens to be Armed Forces Day and part of the celebration this year is taking the form of staging whenever possible that no one seriously doubts the loyalty of the armed forces.

That there should be a slightly desperate quality in these assertions (however correct they may be) is due to such events as the arrest on Thursday of General Vito Miceli, former head of the secret service, on charges of conspiracy against the state. There is also now a constant flow of allegations that there have been recent attempts at coups by the extreme right.

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## OVERSEAS

## Dr Kissinger to tour Middle East again and review peace prospects since Rabat summit

Bucharest, Nov 3.—Dr Kissinger announced today that he will make a new trip to the Middle East this week to test prospects for an Arab-Israel peace settlement now that the Arabs have concluded their summit meeting in Rabat, Morocco.

The Secretary of State said he would go to Cairo on Tuesday after addressing the world food conference in Rome. He also planned to visit Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Israel.

He made the announcement to reporters on his aircraft while flying from Shiraz, Iran, to Bucharest, where he was staying for a day of talks with Romanian leaders.

Dr Kissinger said he was primarily anxious to obtain a clearer account of what happened at the Rabat meeting and what consequences were likely.

Although there are no serious bilateral problems between Romania and the United States, Romanian officials attach the highest importance to Dr Kissinger's one-day stopover because of its symbolic importance to the independent position occupied by this Balkan nation within the Soviet block.—Reuter.

Our Teheran Correspondent writes: Dr Kissinger appeared to soften his stand against rising oil prices from another of equal importance.

Leading article, page 15  
Shah's oil proposals, page 19

### Jordan will cede West Bank to Arafat guerrillas

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

King Hussein of Jordan stands ready to cede half his kingdom to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) without a shot being fired or a vote being taken. In the first statement by an Arab leader since the Rabat summit, the King said he accepted the full consequences of the decisions taken. He had decided that Yasser Arafat and the PLO should henceforth have responsibility for the West Bank, now occupied by Israel, and that in future negotiations in Geneva on this head, Jordan would probably not be present.

King Hussein also believes that the risk of war in the Middle East has been significantly increased.

King Hussein made it clear that he disagrees with the decisions taken at the summit but accepted them out of a spirit of loyalty. In an interview on the ITV programme *Weekend World* yesterday, in which he frequently seemed close to tears, he said that the pressures on Jordan at the summit were enormous.

"But it is the responsibility of the PLO, or the Government which might be formed, to deal on the international level with all the problems of Palestinian territory under occupation."

### Israel awaits assessment by Secretary of State

From Our Correspondent  
Tel Aviv, Nov 3

The Cabinet in Jerusalem today discussed the significance of the Arab summit conference at Rabat, but its conclusions were not made public. Mr Rabat, the Prime Minister, will make a statement in the Knesset on Tuesday.

Earlier, an official said that the Government would be unable to reach firm position before Dr Kissinger arrives in Jerusalem on Thursday and gives the Israelis fuller information about the Rabat decisions.

The Secretary of State will by then have obtained impressions from four leading Arab participants—President Sadat of Egypt, President Assad of Syria, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, and King Hussein of Jordan.

A central question for the Israelis is whether the resolutions will permit the Egyptians to pursue separate negotiations with Israel as they did last year when the separation of forces agreement was completed.

But confidence in Dr Kissinger's judgment haswaned in Israel since a forecast about the Rabat summit proved to be wrong. Dr Kissinger is said to have advised the Israelis that King Faisal and President Sadat would see to it that the door for negotiations between Israel and Jordan

would be kept open. In the event, according to reports reaching here, neither Arab leader made any attempt to block the resolution in which the summit recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Critics here also question the validity of agreements secured by the Secretary of State from Arab leaders.

Israelis say that at the time of the separation of forces agreement the Egyptians agreed that Israeli cargoes would sail through the Suez Canal from the time the waterway was cleared, although Israeli vessels

were barred until final peace. But it is now reported that President Sadat is demanding a further Israeli pull-back.

Our New York Correspondent writes: United Nations officials today discounted Israel press reports that the Egyptians were bringing pressure to get the United Nations out of Ismailia so that they would have greater freedom to move troops about unobserved. They said negotiations were under way to hand over some of the buildings now occupied by the United Nations force in Ismailia, but the Israelis were blowing up the incident for their own purposes.

The United Nations had no intention of leaving the town.

Where emaciated destitutes compete with pariah dogs in picking over garbage in gutters

### Belsen scene in Bangladesh famine area

From Michael Hornsby  
Kurigram, Bangladesh, Nov 3

Hundreds of Bengalis are dying every day from starvation, cholera, dysentery and other intestinal diseases in this small town, and the four subdivisions which comprise the north-western district of Rangpur.

The supervisor of a rehabilitation centre for starving children told me that more than 10,000 people had died of famine in the past two months in Kurigram sub-division, which has a population of about one million. Estimates for Rangpur district as a whole put the death toll between 15,000 and 25,000.

Today he described as "encouraging" the Shah's proposal to link oil prices to the prices of 20 or 30 commodities which the oil producers must import from the West.

The United States would continue its food shipments abroad but it had to be understood that the world could not arrange an international policy for one commodity and not do the same for another of equal importance.

Leading article, page 15  
Shah's oil proposals, page 19

throughout Rangpur district and the rest of Bangladesh. Feeding time, at 3 pm every day, is a scene from Belsen as people, streaming in from all directions to receive a *roti* (thin flat piece of bread), or perhaps two if they are lucky, to keep them alive for the next 24 hours. Women and small children predominate.

Many began by selling the small amounts of gold and simple jewelry which represent a lifetime's wealth for millions of peasants. Then they sold their crops, their cattle, and finally their tiny holdings of land. Even with government loans few will be able to recover their property.

Rangpur has not been helped by its geographical isolation. Many outlying regions of the district, like Kurigram, are not accessible by road and supplies of grain brought by train from the southern port of Khulna sometimes take several weeks to reach because of shortages of rolling stock and administrative inefficiency.

During the first part of October stocks in most parts of Rangpur district dwindled to zero and in effect there was nothing coming in from the south. Kurigram and the Gaibandha sub-division to the south, which border the Tista and Brahmaputra rivers and are heavily populated, suffered especially badly because the July-August floods destroyed much of the standing crop.

However, the shortage of food was caused at least as much by the large-scale smuggling of grain to India either for sale against rupees, which can be exchanged for takas at a handsome premium on the black market, or in exchange for goods in short supply in Bangladesh, such as salt.

Unless the Government can stop the smuggling and control the black market trade in rice by compulsory procurement of the big farmers' marketable surplus, the excellent crop now in the fields may be unable to prevent a repetition of the tragedy that has unfolded in Rangpur and elsewhere.

### 88 people killed in Seoul hotel fire

Seoul, Nov 3.—Eighty-eight people were killed and about 30 injured in a fire which swept through a hotel and nightclub in eastern Seoul early today.

Police sources said many of the dead were trapped in the nightclub because the doors were locked, apparently to make sure no one left without paying the bill.

The blaze was believed to have started when a mattress in an hotel room caught fire from a cigarette.

It raged for three hours and gutted the two top

floors of the seven-storey building.

The police said 64 bodies were recovered from the sixth floor nightclub where more than 200 customers, mostly young people, were dancing.

Of the other victims, 13 were burnt or suffocated to death in hotel rooms, eight jumped to their death from windows and three were found dead on the roof.

The city authorities later removed the director of a regional office of public hygiene

from his post on the ground of negligence because the nightclub, which was under his supervision, failed to close at 2 am as required by the city. It was not known whether there were any foreigners among today's dead, more than half of whom had not yet been identified. Life was returning to normal on the lower floors of the building late today. Ground floor shops opened for business and wedding ceremonies were held in a third floor hall.—Reuter and AP.

### President Amin renews threat to expel Britons

President Amin yesterday renewed his threat to expel all Britons from Uganda after claiming that the British press had started another propaganda campaign against himself and the country.

According to Uganda radio, monitored in London, he gave a warning that he might have to enforce the expulsion threat at a luncheon for members of the "The Guinean feminine jazz band" at the Command Post in Kampala.

President Amin made a similar threat in June but lifted it after an intervention by President Kenyatta of Kenya.

### Women MPs plead for abducted girl

By Our Foreign Staff

Women members of the Danish Parliament have written to President Nyerere of Tanzania and First Vice-President Aboud Jumbe in Zanzibar on behalf of one of six girls in Zanzibar abducted for marriage in September 1970. All the girls except Miss Nasreen Mohammed Hussein, who is of Persian descent, have been released or escaped.

The writers of the appeal say that Miss Hussein, who was 14 when abducted, is imprisoned by her husband, a security official, in his guarded home, and has been told by him that she will never be free again.

### South Africa anxious over Simonstown decision

Continued from page 1  
Indian Ocean is taken seriously by both the Government and most of its critics and the general feeling is that Britain and the West cannot afford to abandon the Simonstown facility.

The prospect of France stepping in to the breach if Britain did pull out is regarded as strong, but the pragmatic good sense of the British is expected to win through against what are regarded as hot-headed attacks from the left wing.

Nevertheless, the Government is not letting up in its campaign to keep the West alert to the strategic importance of the republic's role. Defence officials are pressing through the few international channels remaining to them, the view that the republic is now "the front line against the tide of communism".

Mr Botha, the Minister of Defence, confirmed last night that Vice-Admiral James Johnson, the head of South Africa's Navy, has been invited to the United States for private discussions. He is expected to press for South African participation in a strengthened Western defence of the Cape sea routes.

Geoffrey Smith writes: The break, assuming that it comes, may not be so dramatic as Labour left-wingers would wish. In reviewing the agreement the Government has had two factors to mind. The first was whether there was an overriding military justification for maintaining it; that will be determined by the defence review.

The second was whether the agreement could be ended without damaging seriously Britain's trading interests and influence in southern Africa, and without upsetting its allies. The Americans still look to Britain to maintain a strong naval presence in the South Atlantic.

This is the point on which Conservative criticism has fastened. "It would be a matter for concern if the Government

## Mr Ford does his best to stem Democrats

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Nov 3

President Ford returned from his campaign travels last night. In three weeks he visited 22 states, several of them more than once, raised millions of dollars for Republican candidates, and if he failed to arouse the enthusiasm of the electorate, he at least showed that he was a loyal party man.

Mid-term elections are almost always bad for the party of the incumbent President. The last time the opposition lost in such a contest was in 1954. This time, the Democrats expect to pick up half a dozen Senate seats, several Governorships and 30 or 40 seats in the House of Representatives. There will be 35 governors, 34 senators and all 435 representatives elected on Tuesday.

The Democratic national chairman, Mr Robert Straus, said today that he expected to win five Senate seats and between 27 and 32 seats in the House. He was being deliberately cautious. The Republicans, he said, "will be given the opportunity to support the President and the other interesting election on Tuesday takes place in District of Columbia. For the first time the electors of America's capital are given the opportunity to elect their mayor and council. Home rule can Washington earlier this month."

The other outstanding ability of this week's election is that the nation's two populous states, New York and California, will elect Democratic governors.

## Connecticut may have first elected woman governor

From Peter Strafford  
New York, Nov 3

The Democrats are hoping to capture several of the state governors' mansions in next Tuesday's elections. The difference in Connecticut is that their candidate is a woman and, if she wins, she will be the first woman to be elected governor of a state without succeeding her husband.

Mrs Ella Grasso, who is 55 and a mother of two children, had a bit of fight to persuade her fellow-Democrats that it was a good idea to nominate a woman.

However, once the campaign got under way the issue dropped out of sight, and on the surface at least the emphasis has been on such matters as political experience and policies.

The only sign of opposition was a set of bumper labels which gave the warning "Connecticut can't afford a government". But Mr Robert Steele, her Republican opponent, appears to have been more embarrassed than anything else by this line of attack and he hastily disowned the labels.

In fact, he is afraid that Mrs Grasso may win votes that a male Democratic candidate would not. He is trying to counter Mrs Grasso's campaign by pointing to her years as a leader of the Connecticut Democratic "machine", and by describing himself as a "new face".

Seen from New York, Connecticut appears as essentially a dormitory state where corporations have their suburban houses. In fact, much of the state is rural, like other parts of New England, while more than half the population is Roman Catholic as a result of the Italian and Irish immigrants who settled in the towns.

Mrs Grasso is herself the daughter of relatively poor immigrants from Italy who

settled in the small mill of Windsor Locks. In American style, she made her way in the world by winning a scholarship to a good school, while her father had to work long hours in bakery to pay the costs were involved.

That, however, was years ago. Since then, she had many years in politics, including 12 years as Connecticut's Secretary of State as a member of Congress.

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settled in the small mill

VERSEAS

## Turkish Cypriot leader ashes hopes of 200,000 refugees

Our Correspondent

Nov 3

The Greek Cypriot side has claimed as "absolutely sacrosanct" an "a moral victory" United Nations Resolution on the swift withdrawal of foreign troops from Cyprus placing the responsibility a constitutional settlement in the hands of the island's Greek and Turkish communities.

Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, made it clear his side did not consider bound to any of the provisions of the resolution in its regard as prejudicial to its security or to the final settlement it wants.

As a result of this reaction, provisions of the resolution agreed by the Greeks as a victory and a vindication of their call for the return of refugees to their homes and withdrawal of the Turkish Cypriot force are already on the way to becoming a dead letter.

Commenting on the resolution, Mr Denktaş said that the return of the refugees "is an important political matter closely related with a political settlement and should be treated by the light of a political element, namely a bi-national state".

Emphasizing this point, Mr Denktaş added: "The creation of a Greek majority in the Turkish part of Cyprus would be incompatible with the realities of Cyprus. We cannot abandon issues required for the safety of the community, whose security of life and property have been in danger for the past 11 years."

His means in effect that of the 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees who fled from the Turkish-occupied part of the island will not be allowed to return to their homes. Mr Denktaş was equally

blunt on his interpretation of the call for the "speedy" withdrawal of all foreign troops. He recalled a statement by Mr Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, that the Turkish troops would remain until "peace and security are established in Cyprus".

The most enthusiastic welcome for the resolution came from Archbishop Makarios, who is at present in New York.

He said the resolution included "all the positive elements that determine the framework within which a solution of the Cyprus problem should be sought and provides a sound basis on which the structure of the Cyprus republic should be based".

The Archbishop described as "particularly satisfying" the provisions relating to the return of the refugees, the withdrawal of foreign troops and the placing of the Cyprus negotiations under United Nations auspices.

The finer points of how the resolution should be interpreted are likely to keep Cypriots busy for weeks to come.

Ankara, Nov 3.—Mr Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, has welcomed the resolution. He told reporters that the United Nations had accepted that the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots were two different communities and had equal rights. There was no sign in the wording of the resolution of preventing a federative state solution for the island.

Mr Ecevit said that Mr Süleyman Demirel, the Opposition Justice Party leader, had rejected all his proposals for collaboration in solving Turkey's 49-day-old government crisis.

"Demirel has rejected all nine of my alternative solutions," he told journalists. "I would say there are no prospects left for cooperation between our parties in solving the crisis."—UPI, Reuter.

## Opposition prepares new attacks on President Thieu

Saigon, Nov 3.—Leaders of South Vietnam's most vocal opposition groups spent this weekend marshalling their forces for new attacks on President Thieu, whose resignation they are demanding.

The chairman of the dabbled-backed National Reconciliation Forces, Senator Vu Van Mau, said he had so far collected at least 50 signatures in fellow members of the National Assembly deputies calling on President to quit.

He said the full list would probably be published on Tuesday when he planned to tour in the provinces seeking support for a group aiming to bring peace to South Vietnam.

The head of the people's anti-corruption Movement (ACM), Father Tran Huu Binh, returned from a meeting with leaders of the Cao Dai religious sect in Tay Ninh province, northwest of here, at which he was assured of the support of the two million Cao Dai adherents, a PACM spokesman said.

Father Thanh, aged 53, is a leader who has become the symbol of the opposition to General Thieu.

He called publicly for the president's resignation after a demonstration in Saigon sub-

urbs led to violent clashes with police on Thursday.

The President has accused the opposition movements without actually naming them of "ultimately attempting to give the communists a hand to expeditiously take over the South".

At a rally in Saigon today Senator Vu Van Mau called President Thieu "bloody" and "a legitimate son of the United States Government".

He called on both the South Vietnamese Government and the Vietcong to end the war. He attacked President Thieu's ability to restore peace, saying: "It is impossible to talk reconciliation and concord with one who exchanges his own people's blood and bones for United States dollars."

Meanwhile, a senator said today that police had fired into a village crowd protesting against Government corruption. At least three people were killed and 10 wounded. Senator Doan Van Luong said the 150-man unit of field police also burnt down 10 homes in the village of Chinh Tan, about 70 miles east of Saigon.

It was the first report of Government forces using gun fire since the movement against President Thieu's administration began two months ago.—UPI.

100 arrested  
in eve of  
char protest

Delhi, Nov 3.—Police have arrested about 1,100 people in the northern Indian state of Bihar to prevent any trouble during a mass protest tomorrow against alleged government corruption.

About 25,000 police have been mobilized in Delhi to deal with any trouble tomorrow and thousands of police will also be on duty in Patna, capital of Bihar state, where the veteran Marxist Mr Jayaprakash Narayan is calling for the dissolution of the state assembly.—Reuters.

## Kosygin forecast of end of rift with China

Moscow, Nov 3.—Mr Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, believes that Russia and China will eventually achieve an understanding, though not while the present Peking leadership remains in power.

He said yesterday: "We have been and continue to be for the development of cooperation with China in various spheres. If we have not managed to advance in the course of normalizing Soviet-Chinese relations, the responsibility lies totally with the Chinese leadership, which in its hostility to the Soviet

Union joins the most reactionary imperialistic forces and tries to damage the cause of socialism and peace in every possible way."

"We are convinced that sooner or later, such situations will change in the People's Republic of China through the will of its people and will develop in the general line of socialist countries on the path of peaceful progress."

Mr Kosygin was speaking in Frunze, the capital of Kirgizia, a Soviet republic which borders on China.—AP.

## Japan in Australian uranium study

Our Correspondent

Melbourne, Nov 3

A joint communiqué issued by the Prime Ministers of Australia and Japan after their two-day talks announced that recognizing the close economic interdependence between the two countries we've agreed to cooperate in other strengthening and developing trade relations between the two countries.

The communiqué disclosed that Mr Whitlam and Mr Tanaka had also agreed that both countries would cooperate in a feasibility study into building a uranium enrichment plant in Australia. In principle, Japan would favour a joint venture. The study would be intended to arranging capital, selection of appropriate technology and related matters.

The communiqué said Australia would carry out its uranium agreement with Japan. Tanaka expressed satisfaction that Australia had confirmed it would supply to 9,000 tons of uranium and possibly more between 1976 and

1980. Mr Tanaka also said that over the period 1986 to 2000 Japan would need to import more uranium from Australia.

Mr Whitlam replied that Australia would be prepared to consider meeting the Japanese requirements. The communiqué said the Prime Ministers had confirmed the determination of their governments not to become nuclear armed states.

Mr Whitlam said Mr Tanaka

that Australia would progressively expand its coal production to meet Japanese needs and was also prepared to consider increased coal exports to Japan over the next five years.

Coal handling facilities in Australia would have to be expanded and coal miners recruited from the north of England, Scotland, and Wales. Japan had been heavily dependent on crude oil for power generation but now would begin generating more power from coal and uranium. Many reactors were being planned and others were already in operation.

On Japanese car exports to Australia, Mr Tanaka said: "Japan will urgently consider the question of setting up car manufacturing plants in Australia to help counter rising

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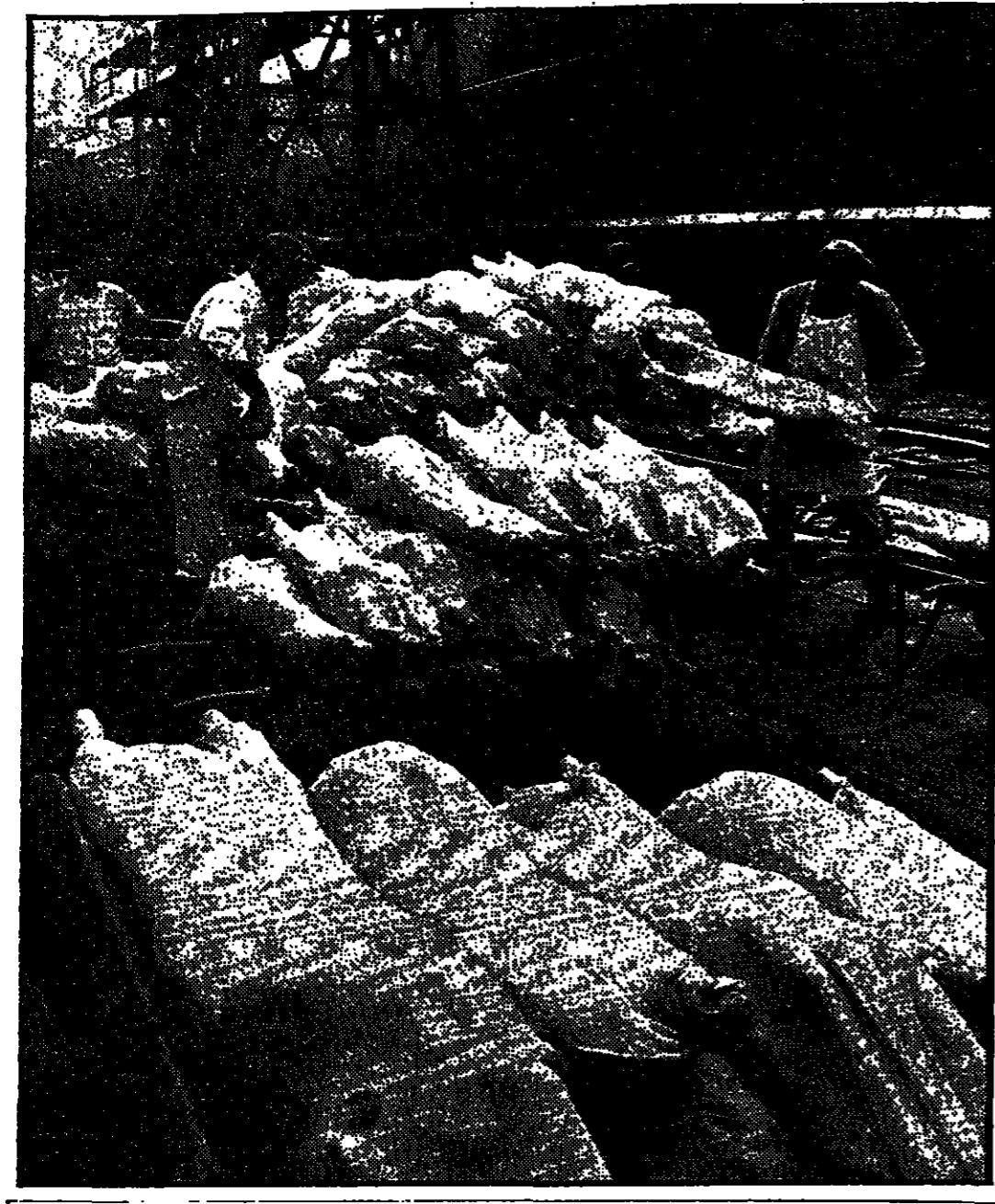
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For the next two weeks the United Nations World Food Conference, which begins today in Rome, will debate the international food crisis. In these three articles we look at the major conference issues, assess the effects of Britain's membership of the European Community on domestic food prices, and discuss the limitations of international price comparisons.



## Man may not live by grains alone, but they are crucial

The message preceding the United Nations world food conference opening in Rome today is simple and urgent: Rapid, collective action must be taken by the international community and a food policy for the world evolved.

Some parts of the world have a constant problem of insufficient food—India and Bangladesh, the Sahelian zone of Africa, the Yemen and, to a lesser extent, Indonesia and Pakistan. But the worst problem is not constancy but inconstancy. Too much can change too quickly, usually because of weather.

Bad weather in the United States has meant that plantings of wheat following the removal of restrictions will show only a small increase in production. Late planting and early frosts in Canada mean that the wheat crop is likely to be the smallest since 1970.

Again, bad weather in India, Bangladesh, Burma and other Asian countries means that the production of rice is not likely to increase though demand is rising. The EEC countries, however, reached a new record and the production of maize increased in Argentina, South Africa, Thailand and Brazil.

Prices compete with availability as an issue. According to the United Nations export prices index, food commodities rose in price by 47 per cent between 1972 and 1973, the steepest increases were in cereals, oilseeds and meat, fats and oils. Rice and wheat practically doubled in price while increases of up to 80 per cent were registered for maize and barley, fats, oils and cocoa. Tea, bananas and citrus fruits were among the few commodities which did not join the price boom.

The world food conference will, however, be largely about cereals, not the whole range of commodities. Man may not live by grains alone, but they can help to stop him dying.

The convening of this conference was called for at the meeting of non-aligned countries in Algiers in February, 1973 and by the United States Secretary of State, Dr Henry Kissinger, at the United Nations General Assembly in September, 1973.

The period of preparation has been unusually short for a United Nations conference of world proportions, notably shorter than for the conferences on population and the law of the sea.

There are expected to be about 1,000 delegates and the same number of observers. Most delegations will be led by ministers responsible for agriculture. In the cases of Mexico and Argentina, the Minister of State will be attending for at least a part of the conference.

Dr Kissinger is addressing the afternoon session today and there is hope that he will produce his promised "new, long-term, international programme of action". There is scepticism too, among those with long experience of promises made before conferences and actual performance during the session. Clearly the conference is not dealing with the imminent threat of world famine. It intends to

Peter Nichols

One of the most persistent questions about British membership of the EEC is that of whether the country would have been better off by staying outside. Since arguments about the quality of life and loss of sovereignty are still of necessity hypothetical the debate frequently settles into a discussion about shopping bills.

The acceleration of food price inflation in Britain since the last Conservative Government introduced statutory price control has inevitably aroused suspicion that Community membership was a direct and principal cause.

But it is quite wrong to blame food inflation on the EEC. Soviet grain purchases in the United States, sharp rises in oil prices and a tragically wide spread of bad weather in 1972 have all been much more significant stimuli.

And, finally, there will be a variety of proposals for the establishment of new international bodies from a world food bank (proposed by Mexico), world food authority which the sceptic is counting forward and the Ceylon proposal for a world fertilizer fund. The conference will last until November 16.

Peter Nichols

## How our food prices can be compared with those of our European neighbours

returns than to protect consumers from high prices.

How then is it possible to establish what EEC membership has done to food prices in Britain? Comparisons of what is what was or might have been are inadmissible. Comparisons between performance here and elsewhere are useful, but they, too, pose many problems.

A direct examination of Mrs Smith's shopping basket with that of Madame Dupont is all very well, but to a statistician it needs to take account of variations in taste, habit and expectation.

The recent general election campaign, with its claims that inflation was running at rates varying from less than 10 per cent to more than 25 per cent, depending on which of the speakers, showed how statistics can become meaningless if the evidence on which they are based is not expressed clearly.

A food price survey between London and Paris based on a tin of baked beans and bacon burgers with one of cassoulet, spaghetti made by breakfast cereal companies in Britain cannot be fairly compared with the spaghetti in Italy since one market is minute and the other immense.

Fish, both fresh and frozen, is worth comparing, especially

since the largest frozen food companies in Britain have strong tentacles elsewhere in Europe. But it is unwise to compare prices of the same food in different countries unless it is manufactured in both

countries. The danger in avoiding disparities of this kind is that in searching for a fair comparison the compiler of the survey is reduced to commodities like sugar and salt. Even comparisons of bread prices are irrelevant since the type of loaf that is most popular in Britain is of quite a different species from that baked elsewhere in the EEC.

The safest bet is to concentrate on basic and much-used foods in their fresh or highly processed state, like chicken, fruit and vegetables. Meat is difficult since countries have their own ways of cutting each

animal.

Processed foods make the most dangerous comparisons of all since the rules for canning and cooking differ markedly in all countries. It is useless to compare a tin of garden peas with Britain with a similar-looking tin from Belgium or a tin of baked beans and bacon burgers with one of cassoulet.

The subsidised were introduced unilaterally and are not linked either to EEC rules or to national practice elsewhere in the EEC.

Other countries have their own internal stabilising machinery, of course, but no comparison of shopping bills should be regarded as a barometer exclusively of the effect of EEC membership on the country as against the rest. Indeed, it might be more profitably regarded as a yardstick of the success of countries in combating inflation individually, rather than as parts of the whole.

Hugh Clayton

## SPORT

### Iceskating

## E German youngster poised to take title

By Dennis Bird

Sunday was no day of rest at Richmond ice rink yesterday when the Richmond International Trophy competition for figure skaters began there. From 7 and 26 girls from 17 countries contested their slalom, change-loops and paragraph double threes, and after an afternoon break resumed their struggle in the early evening to keep their programme of prescribed free skating movements.

In the absence of the Swiss champion, from the competition two became a dual between Kathi Malmberg, of the United States, and Isabel de Navarre, from West Germany. The blond American had to be content with second place in the rocks, but her set of set of four jumps enabled her to overtake the German. After the third figure honours were almost even: Miss Malmberg had tiny points advantage of 0.75, but by a four to three judges' majority the neat, dark Bavarian was declared the winner.

A new challenger emerged in the short free programmes. Marion Weber (East Germany), aged 15, and one of the youngest competitors, gave a splendid performance full of grace and charm. Her dynamic double axel-double loop combination jumps were the best of the evening, and she won this part of the competition. She

### Athletics

## Disqualification gives bronze medal to Mills

Zagreb, Yugoslavia, Nov. 3.—Vladimir Zhalostik, of the Soviet Union, the bronze medal winner for the 20 kilometre walk in the recent European championships, has been disqualified because of a positive dope test, the European Amateur Athletics Federation announced here today. The bronze medal will go to Roger Mills, of Britain, who was fourth across the line in the championships in Rome in September.

Mr Adrian Paulsen, the Dutch president of the European Amateur Athletics Federation, made the announcement after a weekend meeting of the Federation here. He said that the analysis of two dope tests had made it clear that Zhalostik had used a stimulant.

"Zhalostik proved positive after the first check in Rome", he said. "The second test gave the same result, which we had to disqualify the Russian walker. The bronze medal will now go to Roger Mills, of Great Britain, who came in fourth. The Russian federation has disqualified Zhalostik after hearing the facts in Zagreb." Mr Paulsen added that the tests on Zhalostik were the only ones which had proved positive.

Mills' finish in the 20 kilometre walk was one of the most dramatic of the championships with the 26-year-old Londoner staggering across the line suffering from dehydration. From the moment the Briton entered the stadium it was clear he had not been running easily. He was constantly in danger of losing consciousness as he wobbled all over the track. The revised placings for the 20 kilometre walk are: 1. V. Golubnich (USSR); 2. B. Kannenberg (West Germany); 3. R. Mills (GB). —Reuter.

### Snooker

## Show jumping

WASHINGTON: International show jumping competition, Nov. 3-4.

1. Show jumping (W. Germany): 1. S. Cevioni, 3-3; 2. D. Boreder (Scotland); 3. G. Savour (India).

2. Show jumping (West Germany): 1. Bork (West Germany); 2. J. Alvaro (Portugal); 3. R. Sundancer (USA).

3. Show jumping (Argentina): 1. J. S. Siles (Argentina); 2. H. Shock (Canada); 3. H. Shock (Canada).

Discussions are to take place aimed at bringing the organisation of men's and women's athletics in Britain under one body. There is overwhelming support in Amateur Athletics Association annual meeting in London yesterday for an approach to be made to the women's AAA to amalgamate the two organisations as soon as possible.

One of Britain's top athletes, Alan Pascoe, the European Commonwealth hurdles champion, came out in strong support of merger. He said: "What has been asked for is a takeover by dialogue. Even if the two organisations do not amalgamate the situation will be clarified."

Putting forward the idea, G. Temple, of Folkestone Ath Club, said the vast amount of athletics from school to Olympic level was mixed. At national level, however, there were signs of amalgamation, an elimination of organisation being duplicative.

"A complete integration would result in a far more economic of resources", he said.

Only three of the 100 delegations opposed the merger. The Women's AAA, chairman, Mrs Vera Searle, claimed there is an amalgamation. Women's AAA would be the relation. At the moment she is against a merger. She pointed out that the Women's AAA was established in 1928. They told by the men's association would be better off on their own.

However, Mrs Searle indicated that the door had not been completely closed. At a meeting Monday, Mrs Searle's AAA told that had agreed that as soon as they thought there could be benefit from amalgamation would make an approach to men.

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The changes in the world situation do not mean that the European Community can provide the answer to all our food problems. On the contrary, the common agricultural policy has serious defects which must be, and which are indeed already being remedied. What the European connexion has given us is two advantages. One the common agricultural policy ensures security of supply. The Community is strong enough to look after its own members.

Secondly, the system has shown it can avoid the worst excesses in price swings. As things look today, it is hard to dispute the claim that the Community represents a cheaper and more reliable source of food than any conceivable alternative.

David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

If there are 1,000 genes for a variable end and one for a constant end, the variable gene need produce many antibodies in not to affect the constant end gene. Yet a single protein chain is made from these two attached genes. Moreover the P message, which acts as an intermediary between gene and protein, is not constant. It changes and it must have the ability to temporarily join two sets of gene together so that a single RNA message can be formed.

Unlikely though that see, indirect evidence has been building up for years that constant genes take up less space.

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Hugh Clayton

By Dennis Bird

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 4 1974

# "Midland Bank helps us expand and develop without losing our character as traditional family brewers"



**-Oliver Wells, Joint Managing Director of Charles Wells Ltd, Brewers at Bedford.**

Charles Wells, a merchant navy man, retired in 1876 and founded a brewing company. He bought a residence with garden and paddock on the banks of the River Ouse, together with a malthouse, brewhouse, and thirty five public houses. He set about developing the business, and by the time he died in 1914, Charles Wells Ltd was a thriving concern.

He was succeeded by three of his sons in turn, then by a grandson, Major David Wells, who today is also joint managing director with another grandson - Wing Commander Oliver Wells.

#### **Continuity and development**

"We still brew beer the old way", says Oliver Wells. "We use only the best hops and selected yeasts. Water comes from our own well in north Bedford. And barley often comes from local farms.

"Of course, there have been changes. But with the help of Midland Bank we have been able to expand and develop without losing our character as traditional family brewers".



#### **Expansion and future plans**

Charles Wells Ltd is a privately owned brewery. It has long banked with the Midland, and Midland help has enabled the Company to keep its facilities up-to-date to satisfy the thirsts and tastes of an expanding population.

Three breweries were bought in the thirties - at Bedford, St Neots and Newport Pagnell. A fourth was added in 1963 with the purchase of the Abingdon Brewery at Northampton together with 21 more public houses.

Today, the Company owns 263 public houses, all within a radius of forty miles, of which about 35 are under direct management. In addition, it supplies a number of independent outlets such as hotels, restaurants and clubs.

In addition to improving existing public houses, the Company aims to build at least one entirely new public house each year, providing a wide range of amenities, bar games, and a high standard of comfort.

As a result of steady growth over the years, Charles Wells Ltd now brews around 55,000 barrels of beer a year, covering a range of four draught and eight bottled beers.



Are you getting the kind of banking service that helps you develop without changing the character of your business? Your local Midland branch can provide you with further details on the range of services available from the Midland Bank Group.



## **Midland Bank Group**

Principal Subsidiaries of Midland Bank Limited: Midland Bank Trust Company Limited; Clydesdale Bank Limited; Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Limited; Northern Bank Limited; Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited [Incorporating Drayton]; Midland Bank Finance Corporation Limited; Midland Montagu Industrial Finance Limited; Northern Bank Finance Corporation Limited; Bland Payne Group; Gruyelle Zermont Bank AG; Forward Trust Limited; Midland Montagu Leasing Limited; The Thomas Cook Group Limited; Midland Bank Insurance Services Limited.





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# elancholy swept away by Pendil

el Phillips  
correspondent

ing lingers yet awhile  
k Eddy, Lester Piggott  
rd Ride, the three lead-  
ys, will all be at Ling-  
t this afternoon, when  
rds a winner apiece on  
Romper and Ver-  
sively.

trely. National Hunt  
in full swing. If anyone  
that Sandown Park on  
provided ample evidence  
try. I cannot remem-  
such an enthusiastic  
there at this stage of the  
it the reason was simple.  
been led to expect and  
as good a day's racing  
will see all winter. And  
is here so invita-  
in the stage is recent  
ed Winter was not in  
appointed by Lazarote's  
n the John Skeaping  
It was a little sad perhaps  
champion hurdler did not  
is unbeaten run to 11 but  
ancholy was soon swept  
the glorious sight of  
sitting Tingle Creek in the  
or remember when I was  
exiled by a steeplechase  
ow that I speak for count-  
Pendil, the proven  
but ironically only ever  
in the last two years  
that matters most  
came face to face with  
treck, a specialist at two  
to two, a won this race 12  
earlier by 10 lengths, set-  
new course record.  
had, of course, beaten  
Creek twice before Sam-  
on the track and once  
longer distance but they  
never met when Tingle  
was in such effervescent  
He looked a picture in the  
where Pendil was also  
bright and alert, survey-  
king but still without  
twinkling. Tingle Creek  
into the lead immediately,  
his race as only he knows  
seizing the initiative at the  
end jumping his fences at  
speed as if they were  
More often than not  
Crown would have slipped  
d, escaped, and got clean  
Only this time he had the  
able Pendil to contend with  
and never get quite far  
in front to be out of  
ing over the three crucial  
that come so close together  
the railings underlined the  
was engaged in  
a mistake at any one of  
would have been damaging  
either put a foot wrong. And  
the Pond fence, three from  
Tingle Creek still forced  
race but Pendil, a shadowy  
figure, was closing on him fast.  
Racing round the right-handed  
elbow David Mould hopped the  
inside rail on Tingle Creek and  
jumped the last fence but one still  
in the lead he was able to take  
first pick and choose his approach to the last fence.

At Sandown the quickest way  
home, following a straight line,  
the last fence seen on the  
left. As he was still holding  
on to an advantage Mould rightly  
took that tactical line. To avoid  
being pushed into the wing of the  
last fence Richard Pitman had no  
option but to switch Pendil, who  
had jumped the last fence but one  
on Tingle Creek's left, to his right.  
Pendil, for Evans, was able to do this with the  
minimum amount of fuss. He was  
on terms immediately and with  
one last leap he finally put paid  
to his gallant rival.

The fact that they both finished  
15 lengths in front of the others,  
headed by Dulwich, no mean per-  
former with six wins under his  
belt last season, puts their res-  
pective performances into perspective.  
Both victor and vanquished



Pendil takes the final fence to win the Sandown Handicap Pattern Steeplechase.

returned to the unsaddling month or six weeks later than the majority. He had been given a chance to heal. Mend it has, but Lazarote was not quite ready to give a champion's performance on Saturday.

In the end he finished five lengths behind the winner, the much improved Pendil a half behind the runner-up, Moyne Royal.

I sincerely believe that the Kirk and Kirk hurdle, which is to be Lazarote's next race, will see him in his true light, an opinion echoed by Pitman, who reckons to me later: "He's a bit burying himself, that's what he's done. He'll be all right now, I think."

Whatever Tingle's problems were once at varying times

it was thought that he suffered from a wind infirmity, heart trouble and internal broken blood vessels—he has made a wonderful recovery, I understand, his

trainer, Bob Tuck, has now postponed indefinitely a decision to switch him to steeplechasing.

BRISTOL: D. G. Tyler: A. J. Marley: P. J. Grant: P. J. Morris: P. J. Powell: R. Hill: J. R. Williams: A. Sheppard: M. H. Spain: P. J. Phillips: D. M. Rollit: D. A. Phillips: Referee: D. Hemm (London).

## Dealer's Ace beats off strong challenge

Pierre Guillot  
ch Racing Correspondent

Nov 3

Prix Thomas Bryon (Group 1), the last but one of the  
taut two-year-olds races this  
year, placed at Saint-Cloud  
day, and was won by the  
can-bred colt Dealer's Ace  
early pace in this season  
and a half when he set  
new records followed by  
his, Dan, D'Espresso, He-  
Dealer's Ace, Mister Jacket  
Carolina (Lester Piggott). Three  
days ago Bill Pylas took  
Dealer's Ace smoothly into the  
from Mister Jacket and Con-  
, who was moving strongly  
to the final half-furlong. Jean-

Claude Desaint brought Fidion  
through from the rear of the  
twelve-horse field in a storming  
challenge, but Dealer's Ace pre-  
valled strongly to score by half a  
length. Condor finished three  
quarters of a length away third,  
with Mister Jacket a further two  
lengths behind in fourth place.

Dealer's Ace, who is trained by  
Gilles Deloche for M. C. P. Gou-  
ardis, had won his first start  
at the Prix Belfoys, on this course  
on October 3, defeating 20 rivals.

On that occasion Fidion had  
finished fourth, but on his next  
outing on October 24 won the Prix  
Adaris at Saint-Cloud.

Lester Piggott's mount, Zarina,  
ran dismally to finish in the  
rear of the field. However, Piggott  
had started the afternoon well by  
winning the second race, the Prix

STATE OF GOING: Official: Ling-  
field Park: heavy. Leicester: heavy.

ngfield Park programme

CHELWOOD GATE PLATE (2-y-o: £552: 6f)

000002 Arthur Lane (D. Whinney), J. E. Sutcliffe, 9-2 W. Carson  
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## Spain's future is in the hands of the new middle class

Señor Joaquín Garrigues Walker is a well-known Madrid financier in his early forties who has just given up his business activities to concentrate full time on preparing the launching of a political party for right-wing moderates. He is recruiting a team of aides, and banker friends are helping in an American style campaign. (He is the son of a former Spanish Ambassador in Washington, with a Midwest mother.)

"We winners of the civil war must concede something if we want democracy in Spain", he said. "We must reach agreement with the 'other side' over sharing the national cake. But they must not now expect to take all the cake. That would be a dictatorship by the working class. Spain's leading economic interests will have to concede democratic trade unions, high wages and shorter factory hours, and profit margins more like those elsewhere in western Europe."

Señor Garrigues is among moderate figures associated in one or another with the regime, including the monarchist leader Count Motric, who now regards the end of the Franco regime as so near that they are considering themselves for an eventual political role should Prime Minister Arias succeed in the aims outlined in my article on October 31.

Señor Garrigues's ideas are in advance of the average Spanish capitalist or employer. Yet they will eventually have to accept that the working classes will assume an equal place in society. If they do not, the chances of a stable democracy are probably illusory.

The big unknown is the future of the Spanish Communist Party (PCE). The moderate right maintains that, in order to neutralize the "ultras" entrenched in the regime, the Communist Party must be banned even when political parties are recognized in Spain. This is the price which will have to be paid to prevent an unleashing of the destructive old emotions of the civil war.

This is a realistic view. The armed forces would probably resist swift legalization of the PCE anyway, and the mass of ordinary Spaniards have lived for 30 years under a regime whose sole lasting ideological bulwark has been anti-communism.

Would such a ban divide the democratic camp down the middle? My impression is that the leaders of other emerging groups are in a pragmatic mood because of the great prize of transition to a democratic regime.

A metalworkers' leader in Catalonia (a socialist) said to me of a ban: "If that's what the working class needs to pay for an improvement then we must pay it." Spain after 40 years of fascism cannot expect to be in the vanguard. But he emphasized that the Communist party must be eventually legalized, so that its real size in a democratic Spain is realized by public opinion.

The crucial point is in the labour field, where the communists today probably control most of the underground workers' commissions. If the party is kept outside the system, it is unlikely to refuse employers' industrial peace. The present heavy-handed approach to labour problems by the regime and employers serves the communist cause. If a demo-

Richard Wigg



A reflection of good taste

Blue Nun from SICHEL  
right through the meal.

## Government may have to close the gap between workers and TUC on the social contract

Now that the wage restraint provisions of the social contract have been in operation for some four months, it should be possible to arrive at a mid-term assessment of their effectiveness. The TUC has always argued that their response should be judged on results, but the results so far do not seem to be spectacular, or even encouraging.

Unfortunately the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) is still fragmented in both leadership and doctrine. The recent party congress held in Paris renewed the leadership of Señor Felipe González ("Isidoro"), a Seville lawyer who was elected first secretary, but it also confirmed a more far-left left.

Though the Socialist Party would ironically be far more trusted in Spain if it now adopted the tactical flexibility of, say, Señor Carrillo, the secretary general of the PCE, it stands to the left of the communists in its language, in exactly the same way as the Chilean Socialists did under President Allende. Delegates in Paris applauded Señor Carlos Alamillo, the refugee Chilean socialist leader, more than they did moderate French socialist leader, M. François Mitterrand.

The moderation shown by the Spanish working class in its struggle under the regime also strongly suggests that under democratic conditions the grass roots would curb the more extremist of its intellectual leaders.

The most fascinating aspect of the slowly emerging Spanish democratic palette is that precisely those new middle class elements destined to provide the sociological base for a democratic experiment have no home in the "historic" left, except those who are militant in Marxist parties. In general terms, they are a group ranging from the better paid skilled workers, through shopkeepers and small farmers, to the professions and the new factory-owners whose living standards have risen rapidly under Spain's industrialization. They represent perhaps half the adult population. They have been both "depolitized" by the regime and at the same time have joined the consumer society but, they must now, all begin to decide their political allegiances.

This centre, whether it veers to the right or left, will largely determine the political character of Spain over the next decade.

The potential "market" of voters also explains why former Christian Democrat forces are now wondering if they should reopen political shop. The Spanish Roman Catholic hierarchy, after putting some distance between itself and the Franco regime, is not keen to see the new Christian Democrat experience repeated 25 years later in Spain, but the label does mean something especially to a new electorate.

The Catalan leftist "Democratic Union" is already dead in secret. The old Basque Nationalist Party is trying a comeback. In Madrid the sons of two famous lawyer-politicians Señor José María Gil Robles and Señor Joaquín Ruiz Jiménez, on the centre-right and centre-left, polishing up a political image. Señor Robles told me the Christians Democrats would have to start in Spain today well to the left of the West German CDU, a remark which is again indicative of how Spanish society has progressed from the days when Señor Robles's father was a minister under the Republic.

Richard Wigg

China must improve her grasp of world affairs

Has China's two-year-long honeymoon with western Europe begun to cool off, and have the erratic twists and turns of world affairs made China's perception of them seem somewhat sympathetic? The oil crisis above all has shown up the gaps in China's theory of world politics, which at first sight looks so neat. And the coexisting desire of many Europeans to seek better relations with Russia makes them react with irritation when the Chinese reject the concept of detente as a fraud.

Mr. Poul Højberg, the Danish Foreign Minister, admitted in a speech at the end of his recent visit to Peking that he had not found full agreement with the Chinese leaders, and it is understood that he failed to convince them of the need for a small country like Denmark to seek better relations with Russia.

Some Third World countries, especially in Africa, were invited when Mr. Chiao Kuan-hua, China's deputy Foreign Minister, told the United Nations General Assembly that the effect of the oil price rises would be merely temporary.

China appears on risk trading some of the good will she has earned in Europe and the Third World for the friendship of the Arabs and Iranians and the maintenance of an anti-Soviet front, which is at best patchy. Her suspicion that the United States, General Assembly that the effect of the oil price rises would be merely temporary.

The Chinese have argued for more than a year that the real Soviet threat is to Europe rather than to China, but they clearly take the threat on their own northern borders seriously. Since China already has the capacity to knock out several Soviet cities with nuclear missiles, and may be capable of hitting Moscow within a year or so, she should soon be able to discount the idea of a Soviet

attack.

What, strictly, is neo-Georgianism? Its most recent manifestation is in modern and expensive housing developments which have generally been derided by architectural purists. Yet the Victorians are moving towards the view that the Georgians may after all have had the right answer to designing houses for city living—a better answer, certainly, than that of the modernists, whose high-rise flats and other works the Victorians deeply detest.

Not that anyone claims to have any precise knowledge of what the Georgians began and ended. Mr. Richard Richardson, the speaker, was all male and mainly bespectacled. Their age and attire ranged from the elderly Susan Grey, with his sepia slides of Queen Mary casting a royal eye over Harrowden Garden Suburb, to the elegant figure of Simon Blowers in velvet jacket and multicoloured crocodile pumps—running nervous fingers through his glossy black hair as he retold tales of his illustrious forebear Sir Detmar.

As an appropriate pre-lunch after-dinner, Robert Thorne lectured on a jolly history of the neo-Georgian pub, a phenomenon resulting from the campaign of the Temperance-backed control board. It was set up to rid the land of the "smugger" rowdiness, meretricious glitter and artistic horrors with which the walls of the average uncontrolled house are adorned" (Birmingham Post, 1916). The obvious answer was neo-

potent, strain is the widespread cynicism among trade union negotiators who are exploiting the terms of the TUC guidelines in support of wage claims but by so doing are breaching the spirit of the policy. Because the guidelines are so loosely worded, this is a simple exercise. Any wage deal can be dressed up as "reforming pay structures", or having "beneficial effects on efficiency", and many are.

The TUC's minimum wage target of £30 for a 40-hour week is also being exploited to give large, across-the-board increases, rather than to narrow differentials and thus help the better paid. For instance unions representing 1,000,000 local authority manual workers have asked for the £30 minimum, but are insisting on pro rata increases all the way up the scale, which will have the effect of widening differentials. The CBI is particularly anxious about the impact of this use of the TUC's minimum pay

ambitions.

A third pressure comes from

some employers, who as Ford

Motors pointed out, are not

parties to the TUC's deal with

the Government. Motivated by many different reasons, such as labour shortages or shop floor disengagement, they are riding roughshod over the social contract by inviting the unions to break the central rule that the 12-month interval between major increases should in general continue to apply.

The instinctive, reflex action

of a union negotiator when offered money in this way

is not to chide the employer for questioning his loyalty to the TUC and Labour Government, but to ask for more. This is only natural; their training and outlook is wholly directed towards winning better pay and conditions for their members. It would be naive to expect anything else.

There are also political pres-

ures at work. The Communist

Party, not an inconsiderable

force among trade union ac-

tions, is pressuring at their

heads to accept the TUC's

minimum wage deal.

A second, and almost equally

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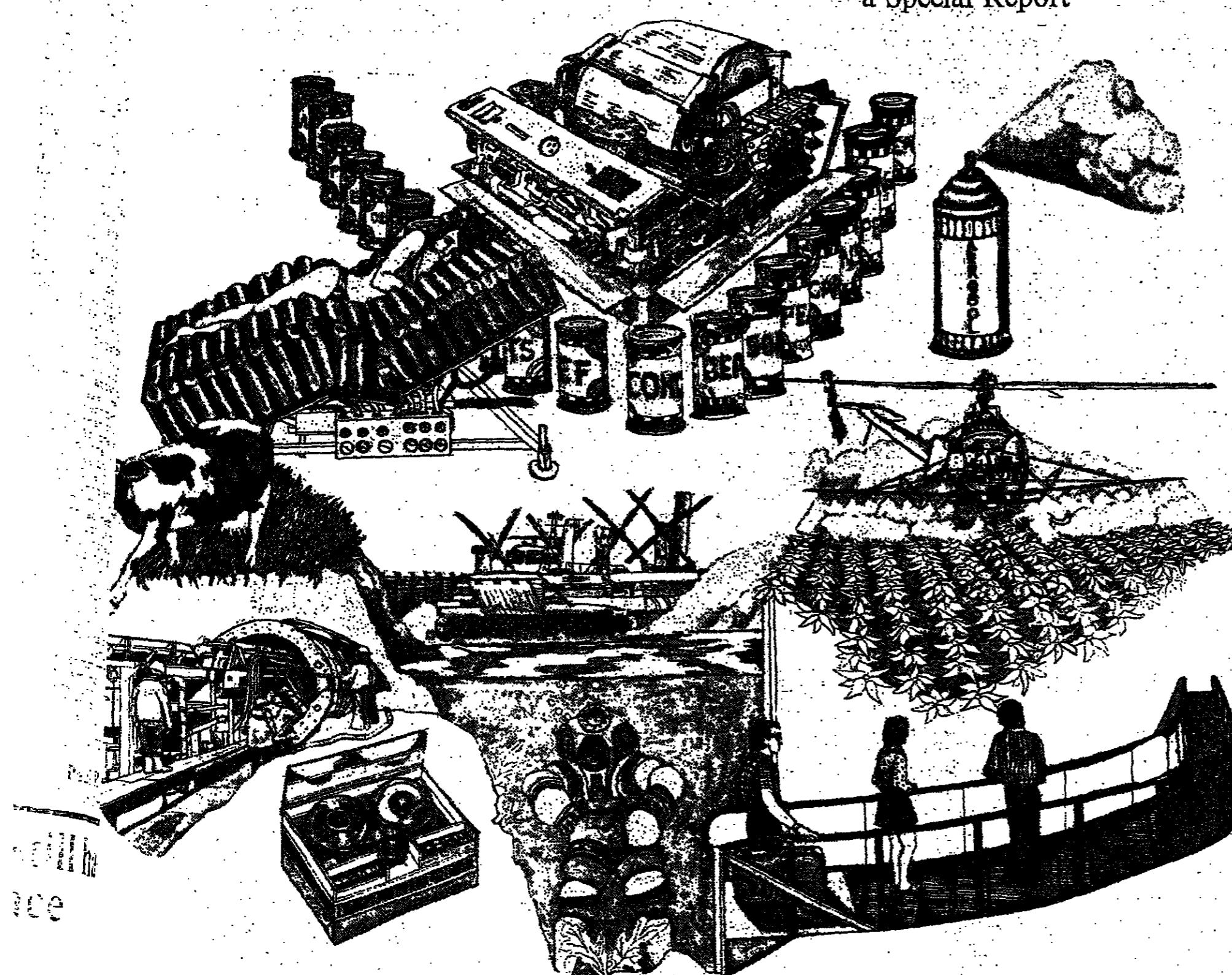
offered money in this way

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questioning his loyalty to the

# Innovation for tomorrow

a Special Report



The chief statutory corporation, which celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary this year, has earned £47.2m in whose interest Research Development Corporation, which has been developed chiefly from licence fees, has been applied to backing for industry or instrument development. (£40.9m), mention for scientific administration costs research, others as equipment (£12.1m) and payments to meet for the public services or components for inventors (£5.7m). Inevitably, some of the consumer products. The corporation's projects are illustration identifies a unsuccessful—52 out of few of these applications, 320 were discontinued last past and present, extending from the hovercraft 1972-73. Only a proportion of the late 1950s to the successful ones latest, in computer impinge directly on the peripherals.



Inventions are developed either by funding an appropriate partner or, in cases where they result from publicly supported research, wholly by the NRD. Inventions from industry are normally developed by means of a joint venture between the corporation and the firm concerned. In such cases, ownership and responsibility for development and exploitation remain with the firm, while the corporation usually contributes a fixed proportion of the development costs in return for a levy on sales.

The corporation, which has borrowing powers of

Development	Partner	Year of commencement	NRDC authorized investment
1. Computer peripherals	Data Recording Instrument Company	1973-74	£1.5m
2. Heat processing of canned foods	National College of Food Technology	1970-71	£2,000
3. Hoverbed	North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board	1966-67	£65,500
4. Detection of mastitis in cows	Teesside Polytechnic/Mr J. C. Quayle	1968-69	£20,000
5. Soft-ground tunnelling machine	London Transport Executive/Edmund Nuttall/Mott Hay & Anderson	1969-70	£310,000
6. Marine and industrial hovercraft	Hovercraft Development	1958-59	£5.2m
7. Instrumentation tape recorder	SE Labs (EMI)	1972-73	£58,000
8. Atmospheric diving suit	DHB Construction/Underwater & Marine Equipment	1970-71	£32,000
9. Passenger conveyor system	Dunlop	1968-69	n.a.
10. Synthetic pyrethroid insecticides	Agricultural Research Council	1962-63	£75,000
11. Aerosol valve	Oxford Aerosols	1968-69	£58,000

Drawing by LARS HOKANSON. Equipment or products illustrated do not necessarily correspond precisely to the development specified.

## oom for anyone unable to find new ways of doing things and new things to do

nes Pilditch of the first things that Kennedy did he took office was to the Department of Trade to explore new "speeding the development and spread of new technology". A commission set up to look at the state of innovation. The subsequently published a number of special interest to day.

innovation creates jobs, industries alone, continually non-existent in were employing 10 people by 1965.

Innovation creates h. Those same three industries—television, jet and digital units contributed more than £5,400m to the national product in

of 2.5 per cent. During the ideas are conceived, our same time the average turnover of introduced into the economy as new products or innovative companies studied was 17 per cent. Their processes; or into a seminar held a fortnight ago in Birmingham by the Delta group of metal and engineering companies. The first is the essential need for serious commitment by top management. Particularly in these days of

stringency and cutback and saving every penny, it is hard for any board to commit funds to anything new or risky. But if it is hard for them it is harder still for divisional company and line managers, who are directly responsible for profit now.

So the enthusiasm and the means must come from the top.

Emphatically, the authors point out, innovation is not the same as research and development. This may well have been a source of misunderstanding in Britain.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, this is imperative because old answers will not solve our new problems. The need for innovation has never been more urgent.

For a decade or more British industry has grown by acquisition and merger.

Today the possibility of success or economic growth this way has all but evaporated. At the same

time industry's preoccupation has been with rationalizing, cutting out duplication, trying to give shape to the conglomeration of assorted companies that have been thrown together.

Much of the hoped-for synergy never arrived. And evidence suggests that you cannot build a forest simply by cutting down dead trees.

So which way will even our most successful managers turn?

Growth, from within, organic growth, is an inevitable if belated answer.

This must mean having the will and power to innovate one's own products and services so as to relate oneself to the world in new ways.

Definitions are due. Invention is the process by which an invention or idea is translated into the economy. According to the report cited, "innovation encompasses the totality of processes by which new

has not much chance of success.

Some of these rules emerged from an internal review of its processes; or into a seminar held a fortnight ago in Birmingham by the Delta group of metal and engineering companies. The first is the essential need for serious commitment by top management. Particularly in these days of

stringency and cutback and saving every penny, it is hard for any board to commit funds to anything new or risky. But if it is hard for them it is harder still for divisional company and line managers, who are directly responsible for profit now.

So the enthusiasm and the means must come from the top.

It probably follows that you cannot expect innovation to come from people with an in-tray full of

today's problems. New ventures (which in early stages cost money and do not make it) will go to the bottom of the pile and stay there. Line managers should certainly be involved in innovation projects but the drive should come from people one step removed from the hurly-burly.

The next rule is that in

novation must be geared to market need. This may not mean, indeed probably does not mean, the immediate market. The closer one is to one's market the less chance there is of being thrown by changes in demand. Equally, the more people's eyes are focused on their technical or manufacturing skills the more they will suffer when demand for those skills declines.

Good innovation work

too, is geared and assessed

frequently in the light of

the potential profit it will

yield; if not misdirection

and fruitless effort is almost

inevitable. The ability to cut

a project quickly is important.

The next rule is that in perform well. But I do

novation should be based on mean we have to see what existing strengths, and these performance is required. We have to reassess the need not be technical ones. We have to reassess the whole process of getting the site: too much emphasis on products successfully into

group activities for developing technical excellence has society.

inhibited many companies. The other point to bear in mind is that innovation is

come back from what Steinbeck called "the lonely times we may appear to get

The author is chairman, of a man", does not

matter. The great thing is negligence will surely show get the balance right, and, to search for new ideas, when the climate changes. If again, there are established new ways of relating previous experience—then to the eminent marketing consultant, "It's like growing

asparagus. The right time to develop ideas are encouraged, or whether ideas start, continuous concern of ago."

By this I do not minimize essentially a creative as well as

the need for a product to as an analytical process.

The author is chairman, of a man", does not

along without it, but past Allied Industrial Designers.



## At Harwell, inventions have a pretty high birthrate.

With industry as our partner, HARWELL has fathered quite an impressive family of new products.

Why not meet some of them now?

And remember HARWELL next time you're looking for new ideas or thinking of using outside R & D services.

### Births

Long-life nuclear batteries. Working with the Department of Health and Social Security, we've developed a nuclear heart battery for powering implanted heart pacemakers. It's designed to last ten years and more. British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. will be manufacturing it under licence in Britain, and we already have an American license.

Powders to speed up chemical analysis. Our work on nuclear fuels led us to think up ways of making very uniform spherical particles. From these we have developed the 'SPHERISOR' range of adsorbent powders for liquid chromatography. They're marketing it world-wide. And last year it won them a Queen's Award for technological innovation.

Cable-controlled mini-submarine 'SCAN' is an unmanned submersible vehicle for inspecting supertankers from below. Without dry-docking, HARWELL designed and built it to the requirements of Underwater Maintenance Ltd. of Southampton.

If you think HARWELL could help your business why not write to our Marketing Director, Dr. Freddie Clarke at HARWELL, Oxfordshire, OX11 0RA, or telephone him on Abingdon 4141 (STD 0236) Ext. 2086

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Research Laboratory of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority

## important role for smaller firms

Kenneth Owen

Technology Correspondent

10 years ago Mr Patrick

Docksey, author of a report

the Government role in

developing and exploiting

innovations, was asked by the

Ministry of Technology:

"Would you keep the

Developmental

and

environment and

management. Published by

Department of

Commerce. Available from

Government Printing

Office, Washington DC,

22.

invention:

"What is the

role of smaller firms

in innovation?

He replied:

"I would keep it. If I abolished it, I would have to

re-create it."

But the role and per-

formance of the NRD

are often criticized and some-

times misunderstood. What is

its role, and how has the

corporation performed?

Is it in tune with the

needs of innovation in

Britain?

Mr Docksey's analysis pro-

vides a good starting point,

while the latter is a matter

former general manager of

accounting under provi-

ce research and technical

services which may or may not

be adequately allowed for the

NRDC's joint-venture fund-

ing.

continued on page II

# Major campaign sets out to reach universities and industry and develop new technology

by Kenneth Owen

Mr William Makinson, managing director of the National Research Development Corporation since May, says: "I think it's a shame that we are not borrowing our full £50m and pumping it into British industry."

He points to the slackening rate at which proposals are being made to the corporation; and to a new marketing effort which the NRDC is launching to reach the many firms which could benefit from joint innovative projects.

The history of the corporation, he believes, has shown the robustness of the original Development of Inventions Act. Despite political and other changes over the past 22 years, it has enabled the corporation to work effectively in its own way.

But, he adds, there are some financial constraints and uncertainties which could with advantage be removed. "In the original days of the NRDC the Minister had at his discretion the ability to give us up to eight years' freedom from interest on our borrowings, and this he did for some considerable time."

"However, when we start

not only making a profit but also producing a cash surplus they obviously look at this rather critically. And they have decided, from the middle of last year, to remove the concessions that we have had on two things—first, on this interest-free period, which we have had on all borrowings; and second, the concession whereby we can apply to write off certain failed projects so that we do not forever have to carry the burden of servicing the loans which financed those projects."

This is no bad thing, but one must be realistic and recognize that this is a situation which could change. The relatively few projects which are resulting in this favourable cash flow and profit situation could be eroded or could change rather catastrophically.

"All we know at present is that there is a relative dearth of good projects", Mr Makinson points out. "We are halfway through the 1974-75 year, and there has definitely been a drop in the number of worthwhile proposals."

So the corporation has decided to launch a major campaign to tell and remind both industry and the universities

that the NRDC can help to develop new technology. In particular, Mr Makinson hopes to reach the smaller firms—those with between 500 and 1,500 employees who could support £50,000-£100,000 projects.

Has the balance changed in terms of the sources of inventions during the corporation's quarter century? Yes, Mr Makinson says: the share of the total which comes from government departments has dropped, while that from the universities has increased.

In 1973-74 a total of 1,325 inventions were communicated to the corporation, 117 fewer than in the previous year. Of this total, 209 were from government departments, 374 from universities; and 202 from industry.

Private individuals submitted 509 inventions (with 400 less specific approaches) during the year. All were assessed, but less than 2 per cent of them were accepted for more detailed consideration as potential development projects.

Apart from making its services better known, what can the corporation do to improve its performance? "We have to be more market-oriented", Mr Makinson

says, "to maintain the emphasis on joint developments and industry".

This emphasis has existed within the NRDC since about 1965. Up to about two years ago the corporation's problem was, in effect to stem the flood of project proposals; today there are fewer many applications but fewer of them are suitable.

## Organization based on groups

The market orientation

which is envisaged is likely

to be reflected in changes in

organization within the cor-

poration. At present the

organization is based on

groups covering specialized

areas such as biosciences,

industrial chemistry, scientific

equipment, automation, elec-

tronics, mechanical and civil

engineering, and production

machinery.

"But, when we do put up

a proposal", he emphasizes,

it does mean we have been

careful with public funds and

that the assessment has been

thorough". And, yes, he

further admits, NRDC money

can be regarded as expensive

money, provided the project

succeeds. If it fails, it costs

the firm nothing.

The corporation is dealing

with high risk, he points out,

and so would expect a poten-

tial high return. This is an

obstacle to innovation in any

case.

Does the corporation back

the inventor or the inven-

tion? Usually it would

assess the invention and tell

the inventor the terms on

which support might be pro-

vided. The criterion each

time is the potential return

in relation to risk.

Does industry innovate

enough? As Mr Makinson

says, the larger firms still

seem able to continue with

their own innovations, de-

spite the present economic

pressures. Many of them can

do this without any assist-

ance from the corporation.

But most of the smaller

firms are more concerned

with survival tomorrow

rather than with what they

will be doing in five or 10

years' time. This is their

reaction to the present eco-

nomic climate.

As a source of risk finance,

the NRDC managing director

sums up, the element of pub-

lic interest remains the main

difference between the cor-

poration and other sources.

"We are not selective in the

technology. We have no par-

ticular axe to grind. We

would only hope that work

which we support would pro-

duce an innovation we could

exploit."

Mr William Makin-  
son: "There is a  
relative dearth of  
good projects."



## Important role for smaller firms

continued from page 1

"These trends reflect deep concern about problems felt by inventors", they say. "We have the basic skills and scientific skills adequate to appreciate the practicalities involved."

On its 25-year record, the NRDC has established itself without an effective channel of development and exploitation of new ideas covering spectrum from universities, government establishments, industry.

High risk is synonymous with the high-innovation area, and it is not surprising that the NRDC record shows a high failure rate in terms of numbers of projects. To a certain extent the corporation attempts to balance the high-risk projects with safer ones, but it could be argued that the high failure rate is simply evidence that the corporation is doing its job.

In its twenty-third annual report, just published, the corporation records that its development expenditure for 1973-74 was £2.49m, a drop from £3.84m in the previous year. But investment approvals for development projects rose to £3.21m from £2.5m in 1972-73.

On the exploitation side, the NRDC's licence income increased from £5.61m to £7.17m, of which £5.68m represented foreign currency earnings.

The corporation's overall financial results for the year show a net surplus of £754,000, compared with £529,000 in the previous year. Total loans outstanding to the Department of Industry amounted to £21.03m (total borrowing powers are £50m); and the accumulated deficit carried forward was £1.18m.

As well as simply making its services known and assessing whatever proposals are received, the NRDC is in recent years deliberately sought out areas of economic activity where support for research and development might prove particularly beneficial.

At present, Sir Frank Scion (chairman) and Mr W. Makinson (managing director) report this effort is being concentrated on the offshore oil and gas supply industries in particular, and energy sources and conservation in general.

Recent new projects have included developments in computer peripherals (with Data Recording Instrument Company), computer systems for civil engineering design (by Genesys, an NRDC subsidiary), investment information services (with Data Stream International), plasma anti-inflammatory agent (by Thomas College Hospital Medical School), and Braille display devices for the blind (with Clarke and Smith Industries).

Private inventors, Sir Frank and Mr Makinson say, are now putting forward an increasing number of proposals for preventing or reducing pollution. And the energy crisis has had the effect of stimulating proposals for using wind and water power, or for making better use of oil, gas and coal resources.

These general constraints are now compounded by economic difficulties facing Britain. But a coming report from the Docksey committee on the future of the British economy will be of great interest.

Most large firms and smaller ones are still in technology. Docksey says, he went on, "The Industrial system is not yet developed to its full potential. But it is clear that once they can be relied upon to meet the needs of the economy, the industrial sector will be able to contribute significantly to the growth of the economy."

There are two reasons why this is not the case. One is that the country's industrial potential would be greatly increased if they could be improved. The second is that, once they can be relied upon to meet the needs of the economy, the industrial sector will be able to contribute significantly to the growth of the economy."

## GLASS REINFORCED CEMENT

by Pearce Wright  
Science Correspondent

PILKINGTON acknowledge the part played by NRDC in linking the inventiveness of government research at the Building Research Establishment with industrial exploitation.

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On the left is one of the two 2,240kW vertical cage induction motors which drive the circulating water pumps at a New York generating station. They were built by GEC Machines, Rugby. The electric chain safety hoist, above, was manufactured by Geo. W. King of Stevenage, Hertfordshire. Its lifting capacity can be varied from 250 kg to 500 kg.

Both motors use a remarkable technique known as PAM (polar-amplitude modulation) which allows more than one speed to be obtained from the same winding. The technique was devised by a team at the University of Bristol, and has been developed with NRDC support.

## Picking a winner means loans can be repaid

by Anthony Rowley

Although the Industry Act of 1972 doubled the NRDC's borrowing limit from £25m to £50m, thus recognizing the realities of inflation, the corporation celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary with a liability on loan account of about £21m only.

The NRDC has not borrowed new money from the Treasury—strictly the borrowing is done through the Secretary of State for Industry—since 1970. This is partly a reflection of how certain profitable projects have enabled borrowings to be repaid. It also reflects the reduced level of NRDC new projects because of the general decline in economic activity.

### Yielded handsome return

A number of the projects undertaken by the corporation in the past, such as the patent support given to the Cephalosporin family of antibiotics, have yielded a handsome return that has allowed a reduction to be made in the overall level of indebtedness.

NRDC is bound by statute to repay the capital of its loans after 15 years, though because of the rolling spread of its borrowings this is not the limit of its lending period. Moreover some of the borrowings, particularly the more recent ones bearing the heaviest interest, are being repaid in advance, tranches by tranches. Repayment is made mainly from licence income and levies from joint ven-

ture projects. There are few cases where the NRDC's interest in a project is salable for a capital sum. Investments undertaken in return for share certificates are the exception and so far there have been a few cases of the NRDC being bought out of its interest for cash out of an approach the NRDC is

likely to be promoting more vigorously. Officers of the corporation feel that the reason why more companies do not take advantage of this facility must simply be that they are unaware of its existence.

A joint venture is where an Industrial company invests the NRDC to share in the cost of developing a new invention, machine or process. This is likely to be a project which the company has already started but is unwilling to continue because of the high risk or one which it cannot support on an adequate scale from its own resources.

Real risk-sharing approach

This leads to licence or patent income, but if an invention needs further development before its technical or commercial merits can be adequately assessed the NRDC may assist this further work. If money is spent by the corporation other than on patenting costs it sees ways of amortizing this cost as quickly as possible.

The NRDC also under-

stands the NRDC's interest as well out of it as designed to bring the NRDC back its capital loaned and the interest paid to the Treasury, though this takes no account of inflation. A secondary stage of the levy then takes over to provide the corporation with a rate of profit on the investment.

This second stage of the levy or royalty payment is at a lower rate than the initial one so that the return to the industrial partner becomes considerably greater at this point. Bug-out clauses are rarely included in joint venture contracts between the NRDC and industrial partners.

However, NRDC likes to point out that hypothetical returns of this sort are usually based on an optimistic estimate of the project's success and that a small reduction in the potential return can bring a sharp drop in the earnings of both sides, including the corporation on the investment.

Applicants are usually encouraged to plot graphs of likely returns taking a range of assumptions, and then to judge for themselves whether the NRDC's take is really substantial at anything other than the upper end of this range.

## Five notable projects indicate factors that can influence selection of a discovery for aid

Rice Wright

A Correspondent  
here I read recently  
the way people lived at  
the end of the century was  
to the life-style of  
times than to conditions  
today. Various ex-  
amples were used to justify  
the argument: the horse was  
to be as important  
in transport and work in  
the donkey had been  
in countries before  
the impending impact of  
the vehicle was fore-  
seen only a few inno-

new devices.  
This avalanche of inven-  
tion and innovation has been  
absorbed in a short time.  
Indeed the value of many of  
them is now being ques-  
tioned because of our seem-  
ing inability to cope with  
the accompanying social  
changes. It is argued that  
we need to provide the  
wherewithal to stimulate  
social invention, or to find  
solutions to the major  
human problems, on a scale  
comparable to that provided  
in the past for discoveries in  
science and technology.

The idea certainly  
stretches the imagination.  
For the mechanical devices  
on which our technological  
age has been built have  
poured from many thousands  
of workshops, extending  
from garden sheds to multi-  
million pound laboratories.  
Only a handful have been  
selected for exploitation.  
Such a process of innovation  
is wasteful of intellectual  
effort and often unfair in its  
rewards, but it is difficult to  
see what were eventually to  
have plastics and elec-  
trons and a host of other alter-

If this applies to the ac-  
tivities which produce "physi-  
cal artefacts" as the patent  
specialists seem fond of calling  
inventions, then clearly  
it is an immense task to dis-  
cover ways of engendering  
those "social" inventions  
needed to dispel urban de-  
cay, poverty, mental illness,  
language barriers, racial dis-  
cord, addiction, crime, family  
disunity, unemployment and  
so forth.

It has never been easy for  
the individual experimenter  
to obtain money to develop  
his ideas, and conditions  
have worsened over recent  
years. A commercial firm  
can suddenly awaken to pos-  
sibilities and finance its own  
exploitation, and by the same  
token a large number of in-  
dividuals reinvent the wheel.  
With so many unpredictable  
factors at work, five notable  
projects on the files of the  
National Research Develop-  
ment Corporation give an in-  
dication of some of the fac-  
tors that can influence the  
selection of a discovery for  
aid.

Three projects backed by the NRDC, each with a marine flavour. Left: the JIM atmospheric diving suit, about to take the plunge. Centre: bacteria-killing fungus, basis of the cephalosporin antibiotics, is collected from a sewage outfall on the Sardinian coast. Right: Pisces III, one of six submersible craft belonging to Vickers Oceanics, about to be launched by its surface support vessel.

is a steel rope for raising and  
lowering the suit to the sea  
bed and a telephone line.  
Divers can work to depths of  
1,300ft.

Vickers Oceanic design is a  
submersible which allows diving  
crews to leave the vessel  
and return on the ocean  
floor.

Bacteria-killing  
fungus

The project has its origins  
in an unsuccessful attempt in  
1935 to salvage treasure from the  
Lusitania, sunk off the  
Irish coast 20 years earlier,  
using an armoured diving  
suit, a technique since over-  
taken by methods for free  
diving with self-contained  
pressure equipment.

One diving suit, resembling a man  
with arms, legs and head  
with a viewing glass, was the  
effect of deep water pres-  
sures on the flexible joints  
of the knees and elbows. New  
construction materials have  
helped to overcome this  
trouble, however, and work  
can now be carried out at  
depth for up to 20 hours with  
ease.

At the other end of the diving  
spectrum is the series of  
submersibles vehicles devel-  
oped by Vickers Oceanics in  
which the corporation has a  
share. Miniature submarines  
with observation windows and  
remote controlled engineer-  
ing equipment are used to  
dig trenches for underwater  
cables and pipelines, and for  
inspection of pipelines and  
oil installations. The latest

innovations supported  
by NRDC indicate the way  
in which small and large tech-  
niques can be developed for  
diving in deep waters. One  
is an atmospheric diving  
suit called JIM which en-  
ables men to descend to great  
depths. It has been developed  
by DHB Construction in con-  
nection with Underwater  
Marine Equipment of  
Aberthaw. The only con-  
nection between JIM and a  
support vessel on the surface

is a steel rope for raising and  
lowering the suit to the sea  
bed and a telephone line.  
Divers can work to depths of  
1,300ft.

Bacteria-killing  
fungus

The outstanding success in  
bringing in royalty money to  
the corporation has been the  
group of antibiotics called  
the cephalosporins, as thou-  
sands of patients treated in  
almost every country in the  
world must surely agree. The  
group of drugs must also  
have delighted those com-  
pilers of textbooks of phar-  
macology who like to include  
an account of the events  
leading to a discovery. For  
the origins of these agents  
lay in the discovery nearly  
30 years ago of bacterial-  
killing fungus, Cephalosporium,  
isolated from sewage by some research workers in  
Italy.

Until well into this century  
the search for new drugs con-  
tained a large element of  
chance. True, the organic  
chemists had found that  
many substances could be  
synthesized and they began  
experimenting with com-

pounds aimed at producing  
in the United States and the  
specific physiological changes.  
By the time studies of the  
cephalosporins began, this  
process was highly organized,  
quickly acquired patent  
licences to introduce the  
treatment throughout the  
world and have subsequently  
begun developing deriva-  
tives.

Work on the new group of  
antibiotics was a combined  
discovery by a team under  
Professor E. P. Abraham and  
Dr G. G. F. Newton at the  
Sir William Dunn School of  
Pathology at Oxford Univer-  
sity and another group under  
Mr B. K. Kelly at the anti-  
biotics research station of the  
Medical Research Council, at  
Clevedon.

The fundamental advances  
were supported by the uni-  
versity and the council until  
it was time to move to com-  
mercial exploitation. The  
cephalosporins have chemi-  
cal similarities with the  
penicillins and they are  
broad spectrum antibiotics.  
One particular advantage is  
that they resist an enzyme  
known as penicillinase which  
destroys penicillin. The  
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## KISSINGER'S RUNNING REPAIRS

inger is beginning to look like a repair man than a builder. His rapid trip is little in the way of new work to his grand design; he can really do is shore it up, I hope that no serious appear. Too much is in President Ford is still id is probably about to ven bigger Democraticies in Congress. The unites in western Europe need elaboration. The m shore of the Mediter- is giving rise to a new theory. Peace in the East looks increasingly. A change of leadership is cannot be far off. And id oil still defy truly inter- solutions.

problems of this type are, use, precisely what Dr ter envisaged when he set trying to establish a world based on the interlocking ts of the great powers. is he did not envisage coming so quickly and in umbers but he realized the need for a structure of oents and understandings would inhibit the great s from exploiting such ms for their own short- dvantage. In this structure

one of the keystones was to be the relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States, if only because these are the two most powerful countries in the world with the most contiguous and overlapping areas of interest.

Considering the stresses which the relationship is now undergoing it is surviving fairly well. Admittedly there is little progress towards new agreements on the limitation of strategic arms; there are considerable frictions between them in the Middle East; and although the understanding on emigration from the Soviet Union has opened the door to easier trade it could also produce new difficulties. Yet a meeting has been arranged between Mr Brezhnev and President Ford later this month and negotiations on a whole range of matters continue.

The reason is that both countries still have strong common interests in avoiding serious conflicts. They need to stabilize the arms race, they need to prevent their clients sucking them into new wars, and they need the mutual benefits and restraints that can be fostered by trade. But how much stress can

these common interests take? That depends partly on the Russians. Considering the continuing strength of the adversary element in the relationship and the strong temptation that there must be to fish in troubled waters the Russians are being relatively restrained. True, they are arming the Syrians fast and backing the Palestine Liberation Organization. They are not particularly internationalists in their approaches to the oil and food problems. But they do not seem to be actively engaged in worsening the situation to any noticeable degree.

In the present phase of their policy they have clearly decided that their main interest lies in avoiding risks, stabilizing their relations with the United States, and developing their trade with the west. By all rational calculations this policy ought to produce greater benefits than trying to worsen the difficulties in which the west now finds itself. But although there is no evidence that the policy is being reassessed — in any case things happen slowly in Russia — it would be wise to assume that it could never be reassessed if the western world became even less stable than it is now.

## IS CASTLE AND THE CONSULTANTS

ot yet clear how immediate d to private medical practice, NHS hospitals was implied as Castle's promise last week action within the present n. Labour Party policy is the private beds should be d out, but as recently as February all appearances that there was no great icy about starting the pro

All that was changed by ns on private patients by medical hospital staffs. If Government action brought ard under this pressure is tisly the hopes of the Cor- ration of Health Service En- ees, private beds will not last.

But the protests of the ors' organizations at Mrs de's announcement are, under that the pressures on Government are not all in direction. any hospital doctors are gely opposed to the ending private medicine within the al Health Service. The gement was originally a sion designed to secure

the consultants when the service was first set up. It will not be easy to square the consultants for its abandonment. Fees from private practice can form a considerable part of their incomes, and in some cases they are the factor that determines whether a doctor stays in Britain or takes his highly marketable skills elsewhere. A working party under the chairmanship of Dr David Owen, Under-Secretary of State for Health, has been trying to find an arrangement that would be acceptable to the doctors, as represented by the British Medical Association (a body which usually drives a hard bargain).

The working party is supposed to be reporting within a few weeks, but the parties are plainly so far apart that it seems unlikely that they will agree so soon, if at all. The BMA complains that Mrs Castle's announcement made nonsense of the working party's efforts. It was originally set up, in fact, to discuss the wider question of consultants' contracts before pay beds ever

seemed an urgent issue. Now it finds itself discussing a major change which is to begin within a few months.

The Government should have enough experience of the negotiating strength of powerful trade unions to know the dangers of clashing directly with the consultants in matters which they see as vital. In the last resort, there is the possibility of mass resignations from the health service and doctors offering their services to it on their own terms. But the profession would do itself incalculable harm in the eyes of the public if it endangered the whole basis of the NHS over a question in which self-interest is at least a substantial factor. From many points of view it would be disastrous if the Government pressed ahead with its plans in any overbearing or precipitate manner. The relationship between public and private medicine, which is on balance beneficial to both sides at the moment, could be turned into one where gross disparities of standards really did exist.

## TING FALLING INTO DISREPAIR

ry raised through the rates e to form a diminishing of the revenues of local rument. As a source of the rates might have their own in the face of the y rise in the real cost of services. But when there is d to that the effects of high ration, both in redistributing usable income and in befog- people's acquired under- of values, the rating em will not bear the strain of ing pace with local expendi- But neither is it likely to crapped, pace Mrs Thatcher. Chancellor of the Exchequer has a chance to think about is going to have £2,000m denly thrown on to general idion — even £1,000m, sup- to scrap domestic rates and e local authorities free to ect from industry and com-

to cause possible hardship and certain outcry with some ratepayers. The reason given for the present Bill of postponement is that if a start was made next year, which it would have to be, it might conflict with the government committee which is examining the whole field of local finance. Since Mr Crosland has called on that committee to report before the end of next year the conflict, if any, would be of little significance. The pre-text is unconvincing.

Another undeclared reason for the postponement suggests itself. If much progress is to be made in the Government's ambition to have all development land acquired by local authorities, the services will be required of every public valuer in the country. And if as well as that they put on a wealth tax, the services will be required of as many more — and they are not in the country.

their MPs under pressure. The Queen's Speech offered them for consolation only one sentence committing the Government to nothing more than the continuance of discussions about the expansion of domestic food production. In other words, limited by the Government's short-term decision to subsidize the consumers' food rather than the farmer's production of food, Mr. Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, could scarcely have hoped to turn a strong attack.

And it was always certain that an amendment on agricultural policy would bring virtually all the 39 third-party votes into the Opposition's lobby. Conservative backbenchers, the overwhelming majority of whom rely on some farming votes, wanted an amendment to be tabled. Mr. Thorpe and the Liberals went ahead on their own and put down an amendment regretting "the total inadequacy of the proposals for agriculture in the light of the clearest evidence of a national disaster in the livestock sector of the industry and an incipient food shortage". Ulster Unionists, the Scottish National Party, and Plaid Cymru also have a vested interest in the farming vote.

In the event, Mr. Heath and the Shadow Cabinet took last Thursday for a day's debate on agriculture, and, opening from the front bench, Mr. Fysh remarked that "it indicates the high degree of priority which the Conservative Party attaches to this subject". At that point, Government business managers thought they recognized the tactical signs and sighed with relief: the Shadow Cabinet was willing to strike but afraid to wound.

What of the third party groups themselves, with their 39 votes to deploy? In the opening days of the new session, behind the scenes, they have been formally and informally reconnoitring to see what community of interest they share. These are early days, of course, but it is already clear that none wants any kind of formal agreement on common action or purpose that would compromise its own identity as a party.

Mr. Thorpe and the Liberal group,

for instance, hoped that there might be agreement with the Scottish National Party on a campaign for electoral reform. They were disappointed. The SNP, now commanding a total vote of only five per cent below Labour's in Scotland, believes it can win a majority of the 71 Scottish seats within the present electoral system and obviously prefers to do so, rather than helping the Liberals to change the rules of the game. There will be occasions, of course, when one member of the Liberal and the SNP will see in which your leader appears to place so much hope.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

مكتبة الأصل



### Mr Benn asks unions and employers for aid with planning agreements list

colm Brown  
owners and trades unions  
asked by Mr Anthony  
Mr Benn, Secretary of  
Industry, on Wednesday  
help the Government  
a list of priority indus-  
the introduction of the  
system of planning  
ants.

Mr Benn will ask the monthly

of the National Economic Development Council for

on which industrial

ought to be brought into

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ill also ask which issues

alysts and trades unions

ould be covered by the

ents, what role the

ships between Govern-  
industry and unions in

ical months ahead.

mes at just the moment

the Trades Union Con-

expressing some doubts

the effectiveness of the

and as employers are

g to discuss setting up

own pay guidelines for

leaders are looking for

it of greater cooperation

from the Government and the TUC; but how far this can get in a setting where Mr Benn, with TUC backing, will be reaffirming his commitment to a planning system which is total anathema to the employers remains to be seen.

The employers told Mr Benn at a meeting last Monday that they were horrified by the planning system proposals.

Mr Ronald McIntosh, director general of the National Economic Development Office, will set out on Wednesday to seek some form of commitment from the council towards a more united front in attacking the economic problems facing the country.

In what is in effect a plea

to the NEDC to reaffirm the traditional role of the organization in exploring and finding common ground on the underlying problems, Mr McIntosh will ask the council to see how far it can agree on the nature of the problems facing Britain and how far an agreed view can be reached on the methods of tackling them. He will suggest as areas for discussion, such problems as the oil situation, and the balance of payments.

Peter Hill writes: Shipbuilding

companies in which the Government has a substantial interest are faced with heavy losses.

Discussions are expected to

take place later this month

between shipbuilding industry

leaders and Mr Wedgwood

Benn, on the Government's plans for extending public ownership in the industry and almost certainly they will cite a "public sector" losses in the industry to support their case for an alternative to nationalization. Harland & Wolff, the Belfast group, has reported losses of £3m for last year and the Government is committed to increasing its existing equity stake of just under 50 per cent to a majority holding when the results of a thorough investigation into the company's affairs are available later this month.

On the upper Clyde, Govan Shipbuilders, which is 100 per cent government-owned, is

likely to record a loss this year of around £5m. The company took over three of the four former divisions of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders after its collapse three years ago.

On the Mersey, Cammell Laird Shipbuilders, in which the company has a 50 per cent interest with the Laird Group, is faced with problems arising from the damaging industrial dispute that has closed the yard for three weeks.

The dispute is the first major

disruption of the company's operations since it emerged from a financial crisis with a reconstructed capital structure and new management. It

threatens much of the progress

which has been made.

Given Ariel's view that available institutional business, and thus the total market in which

Kuwait breathes life into Govan yard, page 20

### Ariel meets its target after first six months

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke  
Financial Editor

Ariel, the computerized share dealing system set up to compete with The Stock Exchange, is thought to have attracted business worth between £25m and £30m during its first six operational months.

But there is apparently still some debate within Ariel and the Accepting Houses Committee, its sponsors, about whether to publish the figures.

A decision on publication was first put off until after the general election. Now, one strong view within the Ariel camp is that publication would only revive dormant interest between Ariel and The Stock Exchange, and that at present this is the sort of public acrimony the City can well do without.

Apparently, a final decision on whether or not to publish the figures for the six months since February 11 when Ariel—short for Automated Real-Time Investments on Stock Exchange—started operations will be taken at a meeting of the Accepting Houses Committee, representing the major merchant banks, at its meeting on Friday.

Last week, Mr Charles Clay, Ariel's chairman, said the system had come close to achieving its ambition of gaining around 1 per cent of available institutional investor business in equities on Stock Exchange commission since that was the original intention behind the establishment of Ariel. The system now has 61 subscribers, and five more are expected to join before the end of the year.

But so far no unit trusts have come on to Ariel and the big clearing banks have yet to agree to join although two clearers—not among the "big four"—are thought to be among the five potential subscribers.

A favourable reception for the proposals looks essential if a further plunge in property values is to be avoided. The Stern group, whose gross assets were valued at more than £200m before it ran into liquidity trouble earlier this year, is the largest of the three big property groups which Mr Cork is helping to unwind with Bank of England backing.

So far the majority of creditors in the Stern and Lyon groups and in Guardian Properties (Holdings) have refrained from pressing for quick disposals of property. Subsidiaries of the three companies, most of which continue to trade, have therefore been able to continue work on uncompleted developments without disruption.

Some creditors, however, have become restless. Last week a petition for the compulsory winding up of Metropolitan Property Holdings, the main property company in the Stern group, was heard in the High Court; it was presented by a Bristol-based group, Falbrent Properties. The hearing was adjourned in the light of the preparations being undertaken for a scheme of arrangement. The petition is due to be heard again on November 18.

Other creditors have exercised their rights under charges on individual properties in Stern group subsidiaries. It is understood, however, that these cases have been exceptional. Where there have been special circumstances Mr Cork has not apparently raised strong objections.

To succeed, a scheme of arrangement requires a three-quarters majority of those present and voting at meetings summoned by the court, and the consent of the court itself. If agreement is forthcoming in the general review of the operation of the scheme that will take place after five years of the 10-year treaty term. There is also provision for any country to withdraw on 12 months' notice after it has been in operation for three years.

While the oil allocation aspects of the treaty are likely to occupy a large part of the parliamentary discussion, the IEP is also designed to provide a framework for consultation with the oil companies and for developing relations with producer countries and other consumers. It will also provide the basis for long-term cooperation on development of alternative energy sources.

Some redrafting of the treaty will be necessary following Norway's withdrawal but six other countries—Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Switzerland, Spain and Sweden—are reported to be interested in joining.

The passage of these schemes through the court will be watched with close interest by the clearing banks. Failure of the operation to shore up the property market could add significantly to the losses they may have to take on the secondary bank rescue operation. It would also result in a fall in the value of collateral for many of their other advances.

Preparation of the proposals has taken an unusually long time because of the large number of subsidiaries in the Stern group. It is understood that similar arrangements are being made for the Lyon group, where a six-month moratorium on payment of debts to unsecured creditors runs out in December.

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Lending rate 11 1/2 pc 20

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate remains unchanged at 11 1/2 per cent this week. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill Tender:

Applications £338.8m Allotted £200m

Bids at 109.26% Received 58.4

Prev week 107.38% Received 64.4

Average 110.9970% Received 110.8607%

Next Friday 1200m Replace £150m



### Britain drops a place in table of most heavily taxed nations

By Melvyn Westlake

Britain is sliding down the table of the most heavily-taxed nations. As a proportion of gross national product, the amount collected in taxes and social security contributions from individuals and companies has shown a marked decline, according to the latest available figures of economic trends published by the Central Statistical Office.

The figures should help explode the myth that Britain is the most heavily taxed of the industrialized countries.

In 1972 there was a fall in the level of taxes and social security payments as a percentage of gross national product to 38.2 per cent from 40.5 per cent in 1971 calculated on the new international system for compiling national accounts.

There was a comparable fall to 38.7 per cent from 41 per cent measured under the old system of compilation.

Under the new system, Britain

slipped in 1972 from being the fourth highest taxes to fifth place after Norway (54 per cent), Sweden (50.5), The Netherlands (47.7) and France (39.8). Below Britain were Canada (37.3) and the United States (32).

Under the old system, Britain fell from fifth to sixth place if Denmark, an historically higher tax country, is included. But Denmark's 1972 figures are not available.

Thus in descending order Denmark, Austria, France, West Germany and Belgium all seem to be among the highest, but social security contributions are among the lowest.

Subsidies, which are a kind of negative taxation, are the third highest at 2.1 per cent of British gross national product, while the United States is at the bottom of this league at 0.2 per cent.

#### TAXATION LEAGUE TABLE

Taxes including social security contributions as a percentage of gross national product at factor cost.

	1969	1970	1971	1972
Former SNA				
Austria	42.0	42.3	43.3	43.5
Belgium	37.5	38.3	39.3	39.3
Denmark	41.5	47.5	50.9	—
France	43.5	42.3	41.8	42.0
Germany	41.5	40.0	41.1	41.8
Italy	33.1	32.8	33.5	33.9
Japan	20.5	21.2	21.7	21.4
United Kingdom	41.6	42.9	40.5	38.2
United States	34.0	32.7	32.2	33.6
New SNA				
Canada	36.0	36.4	36.9	37.3
France	40.1	39.4	39.8	39.8
Netherlands	42.9	44.2	46.3	47.7
Norway	46.1	48.1	52.2	54.0
Sweden	45.4	45.4	49.5	50.5
United Kingdom	42.1	43.5	41.0	38.7
United States	—	31.4	30.7	32.0

### CBI calls for gift tax rates to be halved

By Business News Staff

The Confederation of British Industry has called on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to cut the proposed rates of gift tax by at least half.

In preliminary representations to Mr Healey the confederation says that even at these reduced levels, the tax would still be among the heaviest of its type in Europe. Without the cut it would be the most severe in the world outside the Indian sub-continent.

The paper sent to Mr Healey describes the rates for the proposed capital transfer tax as "grossly excessive".

Details of the tax, which will be effective from March 26 last, are to be announced in the November 12 Budget. The outlines of the tax were introduced in a White Paper earlier this year.

The CBI urges a period of further consideration on the tax which, it says, should not be brought in without a complete review of the whole tax structure.

Preparation of the proposals has taken an unusually long time because of the large number of subsidiaries in the Stern group. It is understood that similar arrangements are being made for the Lyon group, where a six-month moratorium on payment of debts to unsecured creditors runs out in December.

The passage of these schemes through the court will be watched with close interest by the clearing banks. Failure of the operation to shore up the property market could add significantly to the losses they may have to take on the secondary bank rescue operation. It would also result in a fall in the value of collateral for many of their other advances.

Results. The profit for the year ended 31st March, 1974 was £5,761,000 compared with £3,416,000 for the previous year.

Current Development Programme. All developments,

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Investment trusts: crippling effect of the dollar premium

The overseas-orientated investment trusts which caught the popular imagination as successfully during the last bull market are cutting their losses and getting out. Last week, the Philip Hill Management announced substantial repayments of dollar loans by four of its trusts. The biggest, Philip Hill Investment, has reduced its dollar borrowings in recent weeks from \$27m to \$15m, and during the past six months many others have been making repayments of similar or greater magnitude. Rarely has a stock market fashion collapsed so totally.

The problems are apparent enough in the prices. To take just two of the most recent specialized trust issues: West Coast & Texas, launched in December 1973 at 100, is now has estimated assets of 38p a share and a price of 24p; New York & Garimore, launched a month earlier at the same price, has similar assets and a price of 34p.

It is not just the collapse of markets worldwide which has created the disengagement, however. Some of the trusts which are now drawing back have seen their portfolios hold up well against general market declines. The immediate cause of withdrawal among those companies which geared to finance investment has been the crippling effect of the dollar premium system.

Trusts which choose to borrow foreign currency to finance their overseas investments are required by exchange control regulations to buy with currency carrying the dollar premium enough foreign securities to cover the value of the loan by 115 per cent. When the value of those securities has fallen below that level the trusts have to acquire more premium currency to top up.

With the values of investments tumbling as hard as they have, the trusts have found themselves trapped inside a vicious circle. Their own need to top-up with investment currency has helped to push up the premium to around the 68 per cent level, thus forcing up their costs in the process. Gold share dealings apart, top-up has probably been the most potent single force behind the rise in the premium. In some instances, the premium has only been a part of the problem. Trusts have borrowed in one currency to convert into another for investment purposes, and although few reveal their exchange transactions some have obviously left themselves exposed to the risk of adverse currency movements.

The natural enough tendency has been to pull back, which has meant both selling securities at a loss to repay loans and surrendering 25 per cent of the premium at the same time. How much further the disengagement process has to go is not clear. For those determined to ride it out the only hope is that as more foreign currency loans are repaid, top-up pressure on the premium currency pool will ease to the point where the premium itself might begin to fall. It has not started to happen yet.

### Avon Rubber

### Lights at amber

Avon Rubber caused little stir last month when it quietly obtained debenture holders' agreement to a rise in borrowing powers. In exchange for increases in the coupon Avon can now borrow up to £20.4m. By last September borrowings had already reached £11.4m.

These days variations in trust deeds are often considered a warning signal for the shares. Allowing directors to borrow a

lot more money is one thing, raising it perhaps another. Avon's shares have fared badly. They were 237p last year and have fallen from 120p to a low of 60p so far this year. The board has arranged an interesting 21 per cent. The directors report on the full year to last September at the end of the month and a pro forma balance sheet giving an up-to-date indication of the financial position would be a welcome addition to the preliminary statement.

The last accounts published in January and ruled on September 29, 1973, showed that Avon ploughed back from retained profits and depreciation only £183,443 more at £2,280,951 during the year and it was thanks partly to a further £500,000 in a five-year loan that the net quick deficit slipped from £5.5m to £4m.

Since then Avon has suffered misfortune. There was the end decision to buy 22 per cent of the shares in RFD, the loss-making dinghy and parachute group. An investment of around £900,000 is being written down, but not off. Recovery at RFD will be gradual at best.

The main business ran straight into the three-day week which reduced first half profits by an estimated £500,000.

These in total only to £746,000 and prospects for pulling back the ground lost in the second half looked good thanks to a sound industrial and medical products business and tyre price increases to meet soaring costs of rubber, oil and carbon black. The directors also said at the interim stage that stock and debtor control had improved. The cash position was deemed "satisfactory".

Clearly, the jump from £4.4m in borrowings in the last accounts to September £11.4m indicates that the cost of financing stocks of synthetic rubber, carbon black and oil have taken their toll. Equally clearly the directors must husband their resources and weed out unprofitable, cash-hungry activities across the board. Suggestions have been heard in the City that the tyre interests are either wholly or in part up for sale.

Tyres are notoriously a low margin business at the best of times though Avon is big in replacement tyres. But the three-day week meant that in recent months it has been short of tyres to meet demand though this does mean that the group can sell all it produces. In the past financial year Avon's tyre interests made pre-tax profits of £1.2m or 53 per cent of the total, but they also accounted for 74 per cent of sales. But the non-tyre interests in general chipped in 43 per cent of profits and only 26 per cent of sales are still doing well.

Optimists, some taking comfort from Dunlop's recent showing, hope that Avon will soon report yearly profits of around £1.9m and an intact dividend. Both would cheer the stock market as the yield implies. The outcome remains to be seen, however, and in the meantime the financial position is pressing enough for disposals across the product range, probably abroad and possibly at home, to be seriously considered at boardroom level. The signal for the shares is still at amber.

### Corporate cash Balancing act

The City is taking it for granted that the forthcoming Budget will contain some kind of a package to ease the pressure on corporate liquidity. The Chancellor has not been short of advice, including

the three year Dof programme, in

frequently of a conflicting nature, on what that package should contain. But few in the City believe he will go so far as to satisfy the more radical demands. Fine tuning of existing mechanisms rather than root and branch change is the common expectation.

If this assumption is not too far off the mark, the question is whether a politically feasible package can suffice to get industry out of its cash hole in 1975. Phillips & Drew's argument, in its latest analysis of the subject, is that if the Chancellor eases price controls

enough to leave 1975 profits before tax and depreciation at around 1974's estimated £15,700m, the corporate financing requirement could be broadly met by the banking system.

Unchanged pre-tax profits would, of course, do nothing to salvage the position after tax. Under these are a remarkable relaxation of the tax rate the early months of 1975 will find companies paying the tax on their sharply higher 1973 profits at a rate which has been raised from 50 to 52 per cent in the meantime.

Even if the Budget rescinds the accelerated payment of advanced corporation tax and restores the rate to 50 per cent, it will only reduce by some £400m a tax bill that will otherwise rise in 1975 by some £1,100m to £3,500m. So, allowing for profits due abroad and modestly higher dividend payments, P & D reckons retained profits of industrial and commercial companies will fall from £6,500m this year to £5,600m.

Expenditure will also be falling, however. Stock requirements will be down in line with an easing in the rate of increase in wholesale prices. And although a 2 per cent real rise in investment is envisaged, net expenditure could nonetheless be down from around £11,000m to £10,700m.

That would leave a net deficit after adjusting for investment grants of £4,700m, well up on 1974's estimated £4,100m and appreciably higher than the CBI's projection of £3,000m. Theoretically, however, it is not so big that the banks could not meet it, even though P & D estimates that the banks' lending capacity will be lower than this year. This, it says, is because non-clearing banks will continue to have difficulty in raising deposits, because the growth in foreign currency lending will slow down and because the banks' non-deposit liabilities (mainly profit retentions) will be lower. Even so, bank lending could grow by £4,600m, an amount which roughly equals the deficit.

Alas, the balancing act is not quite so simple as all this suggests. If pre-tax profits were to fall by 5 per cent instead of holding steady, the deficit would rise by £800m, a big enough shift in the equation to destroy the delicate equilibrium. Moreover, it remains questionable how willing the banks will be to lend up to their theoretical limits, partly out of concern for the adequacy of their own capital base and partly out of concern about the soaring short-term debt of their customers.

On the other hand P & D only believes that investment in lending will rise because of North Sea oil projects many of which will be financed by overseas companies bringing in their own funds. So although some kind of government intervention might be necessary, the financing requirement is not likely to exceed availability of money by an insubstantial amount.

But if the final conclusion is modestly encouraging the analysis is not without its sour notes. P & D is assuming that companies will be unable to raise a penny in the stock market during 1975.

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# Management

Edited by Rodney Cowton

## entre's hotel success against odds

Hotels (Cranston) is a large group in its industry in this country whose trade is restricted to hotels and eating All the other big are in one way or parts of cushioning empires. It would not be unreasonable to expect Centre Hotels to be showing decided less. For especially this year United Kingdom have taken a drubbing, from fire precaution expenditure to rocket labour and materials and sharp rises in hotel bedrooms, all of the building rush sold by the now-defunct grant scheme, has final pressure in shaming hotels profitabili-

lity. Centre Hotels established its basic strategy back in 1965 when it took over the assets of Cranston London Hotels, which then three temperance establishments in Bloomsbury.

Over, at a time when substantial businesses are contemplating the sale of hotel properties, have been out buying—two Magnum hotels last the city centres of Birmingham and Leicester.

The right location—cardinal for hotel success—meant for them metropolitan centres with a minimum population of 250,000 and a catchment area representing in excess of 500,000.

Although Centre now has 23 hotels in the United Kingdom—with two more, at Glasgow and Newcastle upon Tyne, under development—they have effectively departed from this policy only once.

Their Essex centre at Basildon is not in the city centre

London—and four Old Kent restaurants.

A particular brand of realism in fact pervades the group's modest headquarters building in Russell Square, London. It starts with Mr Henry Edwards, the chairman—a long-time hotels man who was formerly with Grand Metropolitan—and moves right down the scale.

It leads not so much to a spartan business approach as a particular one where strategy is matched by attention to detail.

A vital ingredient is obviously

sizing up people's needs,

whether they be tourists or

businessmen, finding the most economical way of giving them what they want—and then

building is an accurate forecast of what future demands

will be.

Centre Hotels have arguably

more luck than they

might have expected because

of their price policy. With all

hotels hit by so many inflationary factors and a percentage

of hotel guests forced to look

hard at their bills, there has

probably been some movement

down market from the luxury

end at least in London. This

would have tended to benefit

hotels like Centre's.

Centre Hotels have also

benefited from having always

stuck to a policy of high standards of fire precautions, even

in converted premises. In con-

sequence they have not faced

the sudden and enormous bills

other hotels have had to meet

in the last year.

They have also where pos-

sible taken fresh holds on both

existing and new hotels,

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are obviously not suffering

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way some hotel ventures are.

The high cost of cash abroad

is, however, keeping Centre for

the moment from its natural

growth area abroad. The group

has already leased three lead-

ing Amsterdam hotels and the

110-roomed Amster Centre is

now building on a freehold

central site in the same city.

A lot more continental

metropolitan centres would

naturally fall into City Centre's

sights, unlike this country

where only three to four

places, including Manchester,

remain strong possibilities.

their other London prices—and they have more than 2,000 bedrooms in the city—go as low as £7.90 for similar accommodation, although it would not be surprising to see some price rises in the pipeline soon.

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Derek Harris

way that is regarded as training for managers". So last time for the Imperial Trophy went to an excellent Rank Aldis production, *Letter writing at work*.

Breadth of definition is a good thing for the field is more extensive than the newcomer to it sometimes imagines: *Twelve Angry Men* isn't the only feature film to have appeared in a management training syllabus!

But the award winners, and most of the other entries, were tailor-made to do particular jobs, and for sale or hire as such. There are also films made by companies for their own training purposes—as well as in management training syllabus!

It may be hoped that this year's less good performance at Helsinki is a temporary aberration, but it is interesting that our only gold there went to another Millbank training film, *Nobody's Fault*.

A French visitor to last month's competition suggested that our quality rests largely on our relative strength in excellent second rank actors. Many would say that our script writers have a good deal to do with our successes.

In any case next year may see a further test of our quality, for talks are in progress that may give us in 1975 a symposium of the best of our management training films and the best from at least the main European exponents.

In the meantime producers

reporting growing interest and growing sales abroad admit

that life would be difficult without them.

There is of course more to it than film. The audio visual field has been expanding rapidly of late; the video cassette, for example, after years of gestation, is now a reality, and the small screen is no particular disadvantage when the intended audiences are themselves small, as they are commonly in management training.

Other a/v techniques that have been with us longer have become increasingly sophisticated. Tape/slide, for instance, with a long and respectable history, is now a considerable alternative to the movie. *Brainstorming*, from Management Training, is at least worthy of judging alongside their films.

So, perhaps, that competition qualification is still not wide enough, while it restricts us to film. The number of possible other ways, and their availability, are increasing and money constraints will ensure that more people every year will go shopping among them for cost effectiveness.

The wiser producers are already geared to give shoppers the right answers. It seems reasonable to believe that all will still be well in this small successful area of British industry, where the apparatus is changing but the expertise remains the same.

Ynnon Smart

## Low-cost approach favoured by Barratt Developments

Outlining tactics for the current year, Mr L. Barratt, chairman of Greenside & Barratt, formerly Greenside & Barratt, says that the group will continue its policy of effecting sales nine months ahead of production. This is greatly assisted by "excellent" mortgage allocations from a number of national building societies.

Centre Hotels have arguably

more luck than they

might have expected because of their price policy. With all

hotels hit by so many inflationary factors and a percentage

of hotel guests forced to look

hard at their bills, there has

probably been some movement

down market from the luxury

end at least in London. This

would have tended to benefit

hotels like Centre's.

Centre Hotels have also

benefited from having always

stuck to a policy of high standards of fire precautions, even

in converted premises. In con-

sequence they have not faced

the sudden and enormous bills

other hotels have had to meet

in the last year.

They have also where pos-

sible taken fresh holds on both

existing and new hotels,

although some sale and let-

back deals have been done to

finance expansion. But they

are obviously not suffering

from high interest loans in the

way some hotel ventures are.

Derek Harris

first-time buyers. In addition, the group does not consider that proposed legislation will have any effect on group land stocks, and stresses that land development profits are not pursued.

Meanwhile, British Aramco, now mainly a property company, reports that its assets, following a revaluation of the Kent properties at £11.3m, have jumped from £7.4m to £12.1m. Moreover, the three companies outside the property field are going well and contributing much to the cash flow.

The board of Liners are accepting in respect of their holdings, which total about 1.2 per cent of the equity. The individual stakes of the board members have remained unchanged since the last balance sheet, although Mr R. Stoker (chairman) as co-trustee of a family trust sold 28,177 ordinary shares at 155p on October 15. Acting together with another board member as trustees of Manchester Liners' Pension Fund, Mr Stoker also sold 30,000 ordinary shares at 155p on the same day.

The formal offer also disclosed details of Eurocanadian's share purchases. Having bought

shares between July 17 and September 30, Eurocanadian paid 94p on October 7 for 50,000 shares and 95p on the following day for a further 10,000. On October 14, Eurocanadian bought 1,476,593 shares at 155p, the peak of

Eurocanadian Shipholdings is a Bermudian registered subsidiary of the CAST group, a private Canadian company founded six years ago.

Control of Manchester Liners remains firmly held by Furness Withy, which also increased its stake when Eurocanadian was buying shares.

## Man Liners full offer

By Terry Byland

Holders of the outstanding 9 per cent of the equity in Manchester Liners not

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Tight credit holds back Wades Stores

Although turnover for the first four months of the current term has been maintained at the same monetary level at Wades Departmental Stores, Mr W. Dixon, the chairman, warns that it will be hard to achieve any real increase in the volume of turnover until the Government relaxes credit restrictions.

Meanwhile, in view of the economic climate, the board has decided that it is wiser to preserve liquidity, and has therefore sanctioned no further expansion beyond the two branches at Carlisle and Whitehaven. The company is, however, in a strong position to pursue its policy of expansion when the time is right.

## Grindlays-BBC

Holders of about 92 per cent of the British Bank of Commerce equity have now accepted the offer by National & Grindlays Bank. The offer is now unconditional and remains open.

## Tollgate Holdings

Another record year has been enjoyed by Tollgate Holdings, the South African transport group. Turnover rose from R27.8m to R32.3m and taxable profits from R4.17m to R5.47m. The attributable improved from R2.55m to R3.19m.

Because of unsettled economic conditions, it is hard to forecast results for current year.

## Heenan Spark

A pro forma balance-sheet included in the accounts of Heenan Spark to give the effects of a disposal and purchase since the year-end shows that the net result of these

transactions is to increase the capital and reserves by £667,000. Assets are shown in excess of 29p.

The report reveals that trading profits last time from consumer goods rose from £523,000 to £560,000; on engineering from £650,000 to £623,000, and specialised building products from £157,000 to £331,000.

## Great Boulder slump

Net profits at Great Boulder Mines slumped in the year to end June from \$1.4m to \$190,000. The profit was struck after a mine amortization of \$630,000 (\$249,000), depreciation of \$398,000 (\$254,000), and writing off exploration costs amounting to \$76,000 (\$79,000) and crediting dividends of \$907,000 (\$669,000).

The decline in profits is attributed to changes in dollar parity values.

## Bank NSW lower

With a lack of deposit growth affecting the second half profit after tax of the Bank of New South Wales fell from \$36.4m to \$34.4m in the year to September 30. Total dividend is up by one cent to 28 cents.

The bank says that costs were greatly increased by tighter liquidity and the higher cost of funds.

## More share prices

The following companies will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

Commercial and Industrial EGA Holdings

Jackson and Steele Weeks Associates.

## Brokers' views

The City's attention is now fixed upon November 12, when Mr Healey will unveil his mini-Budget and either satisfy or disappoint those who are calling for reflation. Several stockbrokers bear witness this week to the anguish with which investors in the investment community view the economic and industrial scene.

Phillips & Drew warns that Britain faces an "inflationaryorado" unless a tighter income policy is introduced. A figure of one million unemployed in the winter of 1975/76 is regarded by P & D as almost inevitable now. The firm's views on the need for assistance to corporate equity are reviewed in the Financial Editor's column.

Discussing Budget prospects, Kemp-Gee stresses the importance of the balance of payments deficit which, it thinks, the firm will strictly limit any reflationary manoeuvres.

The firm's views on the need for assistance to corporate equity are reviewed in the Financial Editor's column.

With many brokers now guiding clients towards overseas companies, Jardine Fleming's Newsletter from South East Asia offers some optimism. The steadier tone on the Hongkong market over the past few weeks Jardine attributes to indications that interest rates are falling.

Returning to the United Kingdom, Bell Lawrie Roberton recently recommended shares in J. & W. Henderson (Eds), whose strength lies in its activities on the East Coast of Scotland.

action to restore the long-term profitability of the private sector, rather than merely to tackle the short-term cash flow problem. In total, the firm wants corporate liquidity helped by about a net £1,000m, with price increases and tax changes providing the channels. Talks of £3,000m Kemp-Gee rejects as far too large for contemplation. But the dilemma is neatly summed up by Kemp-Gee when it says that no reflationary move must bring a train of wage claims, which restore the status quo.

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**BUSINESS NOTICES**  
READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering obligations.

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**CONTRACT AND TENDERS**

### PERUSAHAAN UMUM LISTRIK NEGARA

AGENCY OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS  
AND POWER OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Sealed bids covering Transmission Line, Structures and Materials to be built in conjunction with the new 200 MW (2 x 100 MW 1 and 2) thermal power plant serving Jakarta and the West Java transmission system located at Muara Karang on the northwestern outskirts of Jakarta will be received up until 11.00 a.m. Western Indonesian Time (09 March 1975) at the head office of Perusahaan Umum Listrik Negara (PLN), Trunojoyo Blok M 1/135, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Bidding Documents comprise one volume of specifications consisting of Invitations and Instructions to Bidders, General and Special Conditions, Bond and Contract Forms and Technical Specifications for Transmission Line Structures and Materials, and two sets of bid drawings. Lump sum proposals will be received for all equipment and materials.

Beginning 20 December 1974 complete sets of bidding documents may be examined and obtained from the following offices :

**PERUSAHAAN UMUM LISTRIK NEGARA**  
Jalan Trunojoyo Blok M 1/135  
Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta  
Indonesia

**BLACK & VEATCH INTERNATIONAL**  
1500 Meadow Lake Parkway  
Kansas City, Missouri 64114  
U.S.A.

Attention : Mr. L. J. Svoboda.

upon payment of the non-refundable amount of \$50.00 U.S. currency.

Additional individual copies of the specifications may be obtained upon payment of \$10.00 per volume or 4,000 rupiah when purchased locally in Indonesia. Additional copies of bid drawings can be purchased for \$0.50 per sheet.

Perusahaan Umum Listrik Negara reserves the right to reject any and all bids, may waive bid defects and will consider only bids from manufacturers or their authorized representatives. To qualify for an award, the bidder must have fabricated and furnished transmission line structures for at least three lines having similar design requirements to that specified and within one year of contract date of award and commercial operation for a minimum of three years. All transmission line materials, including conductor, insulators and hardware which the bidder proposes to furnish must have been manufactured by companies that have units of similar type and design in successful operation for at least three years. The new Muara Karang Thermal Plant is being financed in part by International Development Association. Credit number 3300 D. Only manufacturers in the member countries of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Switzerland are eligible to bid.

**COMPANY NOTICES**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders will be held at the Head Office of the Bank, 129 St James Street West, Montreal, on MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th next.

The chair will be taken at 11 o'clock a.m. By order of the Board, Bank of Montreal  
Robert Muir  
Vice President and Secretary

Montreal, October 16th, 1974.

### Bank of Montreal

ESTABLISHED 1817  
Dividend  
No. 464

NOTICE is hereby given that a DIVIDEND of twenty four CENTS per share on the paid up Capital stock of this Institution has been declared for the current quarter, PAYABLE on and after Monday, the second of December, 1974, to shareholders of record at the close of business on the thirty first of October, 1974.

By order of the Board  
R. Muir  
Vice President and Secretary.

Montreal, October 15th, 1974.

**TRANSFER BOOKS**

**SECRETARIAL**

**IMPERIAL GROUP LIMITED**  
No. 1, 2 & 3, 100, 101, 102 &  
103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108 &  
109, 109A, 110, 111, 112, 113 &  
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